

Argentine P 1.50; Australia P 2.00; Austria 1.50;
Canada 3.25; Chile 2.50; Cyprus 0.50; Denmark Dkr 1.00;
Finland 1.00; France 1.00; Germany 1.00;
Greece Dr 300; Holland G 4.00; Israel 1.00;
Ireland 1.00; Italy 1.00; Japan 1.00;
Norway 1.00; Sweden Kr 1.00; Switzerland Fr 1.00;
UK 1.00; US \$1.00; Spain Pes 2.00; Portugal Esc 1.00;
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THE TIMES

INTERNATIONAL EDITION

No 64,276

TUESDAY MARCH 10 1992

40p

Lamont to take long-term view in Budget tax cuts

BY ANATOLE KALIECKY
ECONOMICS EDITOR

A FIVE-YEAR plan to reduce the standard rate of tax to 20 pence in the pound, abolish inheritance tax and protect modest personal savings from all forms of taxation, is expected to be the main theme of the Budget to be announced by Norman Lamont this afternoon. The Chancellor is believed to have decided that long-term commitment to cuts rather than immediate tax relief should take precedence over the need to meet crucial pre-election pledges.

Although the government is to set some income tax rises, it is also probably targeting around £3 billion which will be removed not just as measures to boost the economy in the short-term but as down payments on much longer and more

ambitious programme of fiscal reform. One possibility is the introduction of a new 20 per cent tax band. This would immediately help the lower paid, and stand as a symbol of the government's long term plans.

Over time, the 20 per cent band could gradually be widened to replace the present standard rate band.

According to lobbyists, industrialists and politicians consulted by the Treasury in preparing the Budget, the Chancellor has taken the view that dramatic tax cuts would be economically risky and politically counterproductive. He therefore chose to spike Labour's guns by offering short-term assistance on industry and housing, while offering voters the prospects of large personal tax cuts in the long term if they re-elect a Conservative government.

Instead, there may be a new subsidy to help people who rent council flats to buy new homes in the open

market. The government would offer council house tenants who did not want to buy their present homes a substantial cash sum to move out and put down a deposit on a house built by the private sector. The council flats released would then be used to house the homeless.

A Budget-day cut in interest rates has been virtually ruled out by Treasury officials as incompatible with sterling's position at the bottom of the ERM. But the Chancellor may still be hoping for a half point cut in base rates the day after the Budget if his plans are very well received by the markets and the public and sterling enjoys strong gains on the strength of his measures. Officials and market analysts believe there is only a small chance of such a reduction before the window of opportunity closes on Thursday, when John

Major is expected to announce the start of the general election campaign.

Convention dictates that the Treasury does not change interest rates during an election campaign, except in the event of a financial crisis or for some other non-partisan reason. A survey of investment analysts conducted yesterday afternoon by IDEA, the City market research firm, showed two-thirds now expecting base rates to remain at the present 10½ per cent until after the election.

As the pressure mounted on Mr Lamont to produce an election-winning Budget, the full extent of

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TODAY IN
THE TIMES

FIT TO
RULE?



Paul Tsongas has made fitness a part of his campaign
Page 10, and
Life & Times
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INVISIBLE
WOMEN



Why did Sue
MacGregor fail to
control two noisy
male politicians?
Page 14

GAME'S UP
CHILDREN



Our young discard
toys early and
come out fighting
when they play,
says a new report
Life & Times
Page 4

Pensions laws must go, MPs demand

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TRUST laws covering pension funds which had allowed £400 million to be pillaged by Robert Maxwell from pensioners should be swept away, MPs demanded yesterday.

The present self-regulatory system is "little short of a tragic comedy", a Commons committee said. It called for a new body with powers to impose fines to control the running of pension funds.

The all-party social security select committee, which recommended a public enquiry into pension law, suggested that Mirror Group pensioners who had their assets "looted" by Mr Maxwell should be compensated, either by the banks or by the next government. The banks involved in transactions with Maxwell companies had a moral, if not legal, responsibility and should make a "substantial contribution to the rebuilding of the pension fund assets", the MPs said.

The MPs blamed everyone from the trustees and the regulatory bodies to newspaper editors for failing to stand up to Mr Maxwell's bullying tactics. Trustees of the Mirror Group fund were afraid to speak out when they suspected abuse and newspapers refused to print reports about pensioners' fears, the report said. It attacked the widespread reluctance of anyone to accept blame for their failure to protect pensioners' money, saying that "Pontius Pilate would have blushed" at witnesses washing their hands in public of their responsibilities.

Tony Newton, the social security secretary, last night indicated that a Tory government would be prepared to revise pension law, but he issued a warning against hasty action. It is understood that Mr Newton is sympathetic to the idea of an enquiry committee, though he would await the outcome of the Serious Fraud Office investigations into the Maxwell case, before drawing up any

terms of reference. He said that if pension funds were too tightly regulated employers would stop setting them up. "We would be more than willing to take further steps when it is clear what kind of action would best serve to prevent this kind of thing happening again without making employees wonder whether it was worth having a pension scheme at all."

Michael Meacher, shadow social security secretary, said that Labour already had a legislative programme which would provide pension protection early in its first term of office. "The scale of abuse, potential for individual pension loss and consequent implications for public expenditure mean we cannot afford to wait three years while a royal commission deliberates before acting to regulate the industry."

Frank Field, committee chairman and Labour MP for Birkenhead, was uncompromising in his attack on each of the players in the Maxwell saga. "If the regulators had acted with a proper degree of suspicion, if the professional advisers had acted with as much common sense as they were willing to pick up their fees, if newspaper editors had been prepared to stand up to Maxwell's bile and legal attacks; and if Parliament had not been so beguiled by its own rhetoric on the special status of trust law, then all these pensions in Maxwell-run pensions would have been safe and we would not have sent in this report today."

At a Westminster press conference it was evident that MPs put different interpretations on the unanimous report which had been sent to the printers over the weekend. Some MPs had favoured a royal commission while others had pressed for a quicker public enquiry.

Pension bodies and newsletters welcomed the report but sought more urgent action for pensioners who had lost money.

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Regulations call, page 23



Simple ceremony: the body of the former Israeli prime minister, Menachem Begin, is lowered into his grave on the Mount of Olives

Israel buries hero of war and peace

BY BEN LYNFIELD AND PAUL ADAMS IN JERUSALEM

MENACHEM Begin, the anti-British terrorist in Palestine who went on to make a historic peace with Egypt as Israeli prime minister, was buried yesterday on Jerusalem's Mount of Olives in a simple religious ceremony.

There was no state funeral, with psalms rather than eulogies. Tributes came from Egyptian leaders, who praised Mr Begin's courage, and President Bush, who declared that Mr Begin's historic role would never be forgotten.

Jimmy Carter said Mr Begin was more flexible than the current government of Yitzhak Shamir, adding: "I've always regretted the fact

that he was replaced by leaders I consider to be of lesser stature".

Mr Shamir's cabinet observed a minute's silence as the prime minister spoke of a "colossal legacy of achievement. We shall pursue his doctrine and path and continue the struggle to strengthen our right to our entire homeland from the [Mediterranean] Sea to the River Jordan".

Mr Shamir, prime minister from 1977 to 1983, suffered a heart attack six days ago and was taken unconscious to a Tel Aviv hospital where he died at 3.30 a.m. yesterday. He was 78.

The service was held in a small, spartan hall, and lasted only a few minutes. Outside, thousands of mourners lined the streets, some of them travelling from remote towns in the south and the Galilee, to pay tribute to the man who served as a father figure to poor Sephardic Jews.

"He belongs to the people, and it would be improper to give him a ceremonial, fancy funeral," said Yaakov Meridor, former economics minister and a close friend.

Mr Begin's son and political heir, Ze'ev Binyamin, recited the memorial Kaddish prayer as his father lay draped on a stretcher in a black and white prayer shawl. Mr Shamir, Moše Arens, the defence minister, Ehud Barak, the army chief of staff and virtually the entire cabinet wore black ribbons on their shirts.

By request of the family, there was no pomp. The honour of buying Mr Begin's body was given to seven veter-

ans of his Irgun Zvai Leumi underground that he commanded before Israel gained independence in 1948. All of them are now in their seventies. In keeping with the

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Smooth /adj...v.,n.,& adv. 1. Having an even texture; satin, velvet. 2. (of liquids) of even consistency. 3. (taste) cf. Draught Guinness and Draught Guinness in cans.

Begging seamen tell tale of a leaky tub

BY DAVID YOUNG AND HELEN JOHNSTONE

THE CREW of a Romanian freighter spent nine months on the high seas fighting off famine, dehydration and scurvy on a ship infested by rats and cockroaches which maritime experts say could have broken up any minute. Such was the plight of the 30-man crew of the Roman that beggars on the dockside in Burma took pity and gave them cigarettes.

As if that was not enough, the crew, which is now safe on British soil after surviving at one point in the voyage with only four watermelons among them, is still suffering because the Romanian government is refusing to pay them.

The crew yesterday described the voyage, which one said was like a bad dream. The ship left Romania almost a year ago and has called at ports in Taiwan, Singapore, Burma and India. Described by Lloyd's marine surveyors as "the worst ship we've ever seen", it now lies trapped in Avonmouth docks, waiting for its Romanian owners to come up with the money for repairs. It had taken nine months to travel from the Far East and then on to Britain and has been refused permission to leave the Royal Portbury docks without the essential repairs.

Many of the stranded seamen are desperate to leave, but 18 of the original crew of 30, and the captain, are refusing to go until they receive the wages they are owed.

The Roman docked on

Thursday and is discharging its cargo of animal feed, but the captain and the crew say the ship's owners, a Romanian state-owned company, have refused to fly in the vital parts needed for repairs. The ship spent the last three months with its turbo-charger broken, which meant it had to run on its auxiliary engines, with a top speed of only three knots.

Apostol Armeni, the captain, said: "The people from

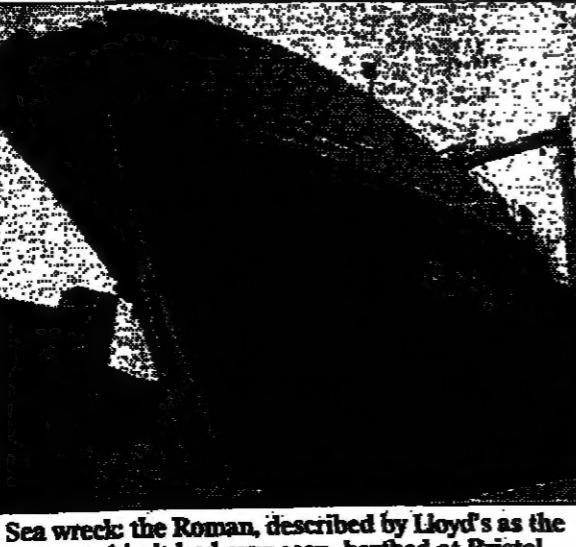
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The Engineering Council's list of newly qualified chartered and incorporated engineers is published on page 22



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Sea wreck the Roman, described by Lloyd's as the worst ship it had ever seen, berthed at Bristol

PURE GENIUS

Reading still poor in fifth of primary schools

BY MATTHEW D'ANCONA, EDUCATION REPORTER

READING standards in primary education have scarcely improved in the past year and one in five schools teaches reading poorly, according to a report by Her Majesty's Inspectorate.

Eighty per cent of primary schools were achieving satisfactory or better standards, including 37 per cent where standards were good, said the report, which is based on inspections at 2,113 schools last year. As in 1990, however, 20 per cent remained "strongly associated with weaknesses in the quality of teaching and in the organisation and management of the classroom."

Most pupils in the eight to 11 age group were found to have been insufficiently extended by the range of reading activities offered them. Four out of ten of these classes were also restrained by a shortage of books.

The report said that some schools waited too long before identifying children with reading difficulties and were often uncertain about how to help them. In contrast, reading competence among younger readers often reflected strong parental support.

The findings come after a recent government decision to spend £3 million on a reading recovery programme in the inner cities. Kenneth Clarke the education secretary said yesterday in a letter to chairmen of education authorities that the new evidence should give "real cause for concern", taken with the first national test of seven-year-olds last summer, which showed that 28 per cent could not read alone.

"High quality teaching, effective organisation and management of work in the classroom, and systematic and early assessment of pupils' strengths and weakness-

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es, are the keys to success," he said. Where teaching met these requirements, schools achieved good results, even in the face of social and economic disadvantage.

Evidence that reading standards are declining has triggered a heated debate about teaching methods, with traditionalists defending phonic approaches. Martin Turner, an education psychologist who initiated the debate in 1990, said yesterday that "direct, systematic and explicit instruction" was the most effective classroom approach to teaching reading.

The report found that most teachers used a variety of methods, and that reliance on a single technique was generally unsuccessful. A companion report by the Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education, also published yesterday, said that most tutors of primary teachers also favoured a mixed approach.

Greg Brooks, of the National Foundation for Education Research, which recently compiled a survey on children's reading, said that teaching methods were not the key factor in explaining low standards. "Changing social patterns might have something to do with it, or increased watching of TV and video."

The Universities Funding Council yesterday launched the first exercise to assess research in all higher education institutions in the United Kingdom. Fifty panels of academic experts will assess work in 72 subject groupings, producing ratings for each department on a standard one-to-five scale, which will be used to calculate research allocations for the year 1993-4.

Mellow yellows: Emma Cooper, a member of the Royal Horticultural Society, preparing a display of daffodils yesterday for the society's early spring flower show at the New Horticultural halls, central London. The show opens today for two days

Patient's charter

Health chiefs miss deadline

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

ONE of the largest regional health authorities has told the health department that it cannot meet the March deadline for clearing its list of patients who have waited more than two years for treatment, as laid down in the patient's charter.

North East Thames had 4,192 patients on its two-year list at the end of January, more than any other region. Of those, 2,160 were waiting for plastic surgery. Despite progress in recent weeks, regional managers have now told health department officials that the authority cannot treat the plastic surgery patients in time and is negotiating a three-month extension to the end of June.

Jane Evans, waiting list manager for North East

Thames, said: "We will achieve the target for the other specialties but with the best will in the world we cannot do it for plastic surgery."

To clear the two-year list by the end of June the region is spending £500,000 from the government's waiting list fund to build a temporary operating theatre at St Andrew's hospital, Billerica, the regional burns and plastic surgery centre. The theatre, which will have a ten-year life, is due to open on May 5. Ms Evans said: "In the short term it will help us clear the two-year list. In the long term we expect to provide a no-waiting plastic surgery service within two years."

Until the new operating theatre opens, plastic surgeons at St Andrew's are doing extra sessions at Orsett hospital, Grays. They have already been told that they have a new deadline to clear the two-year lists. Brian Sommerville, St Andrew's consultant and honorary secretary of the British Association of Plastic Surgeons, said: "We certainly won't deal with all the cases by April 1. We have argued that rather than make urgent manoeuvres it is better to make long-term plans."

A spokesman for the health department said that no deal had been done with North East Thames.

A statement afterwards disclosed that John Major, the prime minister, whose intervention helped pave the way for the meeting, had sent his good wishes "which all participants noted with appreciation". The parties con-

Ulster's politicians start talking again

BY EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

LEADERS of Northern Ireland's four main constitutional political parties yesterday held the first session of talks under the revived Brooke initiative, and agreed to set up a business committee to plan for future meetings.

The leaders, Jim Moloney and Ian Paisley for the Unionists, John Hume of the SDLP and John Alderdice of the Alliance, met under the chairmanship of Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, for a four-hour session at Stormont.

This phase of the Brooke initiative will amount to very little of substance prior to the election. Its true value will depend on whether, in an inevitably changed post-election political climate, all the participants will honour their commitments to return promptly to the table.

Life jail for killer of wife

A husband was jailed for life yesterday for murdering his wife after they were taken to a police station's domestic violence unit to try to resolve their difficulties.

Women in the public gallery of the Central Criminal Court applauded as the jury of seven men and five women found Jayanibhai Patel unanimously guilty of murdering his wife Vanda, aged 21. He had stabbed her 12 times.

Patel, aged 34, of Hackney, east London, admitted manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility but denied murder. He had already served a 12-month jail term in 1984 for attacking his first wife.

Ex-editor jailed

Linzi Drew, aged 33, a former editor of *Penthouse* magazine, was jailed for four months after admitting her part in a mail order business selling pornographic videos. Guildford crown court was told that Drew and her boy friend, Lindsay Honey, ran the business from their cottage in Stoke D'Abernon, Surrey. Honey, aged 33, was jailed for nine months.

Aid for Russia

A group seeking to provide aid in the former Soviet republics has set up an office in the City of London. The British Emergency Action in Russia and the Republics hopes to assist emerging self-help organisations and to provide medical aid in areas not covered by government programmes. It is based at 40 Holborn Viaduct, London EC1, phone 071 430 3086, fax 071 430 3448.

Sentence cut

A ten-year jail sentence on a businessman who made a £1 million blackmail demand against the Cadbury chain by threatening to poison its chocolate cream eggs was cut to eight years yesterday. The Court of Appeal ruled that Robert Telford, aged 43, of Irby in the Marsh, Lincolnshire, deserved a deterrent sentence, but ten years was inappropriate.

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For further details, why not visit your travel agency or call 081 759 2636 from London (0800 18 13 13 from elsewhere in the UK).

Air Canada
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Life jail
for killer
of wife

Boxer and programme makers face £1.25m bill over claim that fight was forced on injured man

McGuigan to pay £450,000 damages for video libel

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE former world featherweight boxing champion Barry McGuigan was yesterday ordered to pay £450,000 libel damages to his former manager, Barney Eastwood, over remarks made in a television video. With costs, the Irish boxer and the programme's makers, Channel 5 Video, face a bill of more than £1.25 million.

The decision by a jury at Belfast high court marks the nadir of a relationship between the two men which once blossomed publicly as a close personal friendship as well as a successful professional partnership.

After the verdict, Mr Eastwood said: "I am sorry it has come to this. I have not spoken to McGuigan in six years, but that was not my doing. Naturally I was upset, because here was a wee lad

where we did everything possible for him. He was very, very friendly with the family. We all loved him, and I suppose I was like a father figure to him."

The 25-day hearing ended with the jury returning a verdict in favour of the manager's claim that he had been defamed by Mr McGuigan in the video. On the tape, the boxer claimed that his manager had made him go ahead with a world title fight five years ago in Las Vegas even though he had a number of injuries.

Mr McGuigan said in the interview recorded for Channel 5 Video that he had pre-fight injuries in his right ankle and left ear when he lost his WBA featherweight title to Steve Cruz in June 1986. He said he would never forgive his manager for mak-

ing him go ahead with the contest. Mr Eastwood denied the allegation.

In the interview, the boxer said: "I literally begged him to take me home. I literally got down on my knees and he made all sorts of excuses. He still made me go through with the fight."

The case centred on Mr McGuigan's ankle injury, apparently suffered while training in America for the third defence of his title. Daniel Johnson, a doctor who treated the injury in Palm Springs, described how he diagnosed a quite severe ankle sprain and that the patient was not able to have a full examination because it was too painful. In my opinion, I expressed that it was out of the question to be in a prize fight in three weeks," he told the court.

Two days after Mr McGuigan sustained the injury, his manager called in a sports injury specialist, Michael Shimansky, the head physician for the Portland basketball team. He treated Mr McGuigan up until the day of the fight and told the court that there had been no complaints from the fighter about his injury. When asked by Robert McCarron QC, for Mr Eastwood, if it was there any lack of training due to the ankle injury, he replied "No".

The £450,000 awarded to Barney Eastwood is the latest in a long line of large libel awards.

The record payment came in 1989 when a jury decided that Count Nikolai Tolstoy should pay £1.5 million to Lord Aldington over his allegation that the former Tory party chairman sent Cossacks and Yugoslavs to their deaths in 1945.

Others' large awards include: 1987, Jeffrey Archer awarded £500,000 against

in his defence, Mr McGuigan said: "I would indicate to him [Mr Eastwood] how bad things were but he just shrugged his shoulders and turned away."

Mr Eastwood in evidence said: "I believe if anything he was fitter for this fight than he had ever been before."

Guy Juras, one of the match judges, said he saw nothing wrong. "If it [the ankle] had bothered I him feel it would have been showing somewhere." The referee of the fight, Richard Steele, also gave evidence on behalf of Mr Eastwood. "This was one of the best I have ever refereed in my 80 fights. I have a place for it in my top five," he said.

Outside the court Mr McGuigan said: "I am amazed, absolutely amazed. It's an incredible verdict and it's now the subject of an appeal. I have been advised by my lawyers to do that."

Mr Eastwood said that he had been confident of victory as he knew he had truth on his side. "Since Barry McGuigan left me he has had some terrible failures. If I had been managing him that's one fight he would never have taken." Asked if he expected such a big award, he said: "The jury obviously took account of the torture I had gone through."



Victor: Barney Eastwood and his wife leaving Belfast high court after the case yesterday

Battler who won hearts of the Irish

By SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

IN BOXING circles they say there will never another fighter like Barry McGuigan. Those who saw him at the King's Hall, Belfast, know it.

He was a special fighter, who boxed under the management of B. J. Eastwood, Ireland's leading bookmaker, and under the banner of peace, and on the nights of his bouts, he united his countrymen north and south.

One can never forget the strains of "Danny Boy" during the evening in June 1985, at Queens Park Rangers when he won the World Boxing Association featherweight title: his father, Patrick, Eastwood, and his cornermen behind him, singing. Once the singing stopped,

McGuigan stopped the hearts of his supporters by out-pointing Eusebio Pedroza of Panama, one of the greatest featherweights.

Britain and Ireland were in celebration. It seemed that nothing was beyond McGuigan's grasp. The next day, all Belfast turned out to greet him. "Thank you, Mr Eastwood," Mr McGuigan said as he acknowledged the cheers.

Eastwood had steered him through 27 contests and brought him to the pinnacle. On the surface, the two appeared the best of friends, but underneath a rift was developing. McGuigan often saying in private he had not been properly consulted about op-

ponents. Eastwood maintained McGuigan was always fully consulted.

After the defeat of Bernard Taylor of the United States, and Danilo Cabrera of the Dominican Republic, Eastwood wanted McGuigan to meet Fernando Sosa, of Argentina. But McGuigan wanted to take on Wilfredo Gomez, the super-featherweight champion.

But the match with Sosa was made. However, Sosa dropped out at a late stage with injury and McGuigan found himself facing Steve Cruz, of Texas, for \$600,000. It was the biggest purse of his career. Though McGuigan claimed some time after his defeat by Cruz that he had

wanted to withdraw, being troubled with an ankle injury and an ear drum, things might have been alright in his relationships between himself and Eastwood, if he had not been beaten.

He would have gone on to make further defences and might not have bothered with reports that the deal with Bob Arum, the American promoter of fights with Cruise, was for \$1.600,000. McGuigan now wanted the "missing" million he believed he should have received.

He sued Eastwood and the master was sent out of court, with Eastwood paying the fighter \$600,000. The split between the two was complete.

41 nations plumb oceans' depths

By NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

TWO new long-haul air lines are to be created to cater for the growing demand from British tourists for holidays in America, the Caribbean and the Far East.

The travel industry is reporting higher bookings than ever, with long-haul growing faster than journeys to the Mediterranean.

Few airlines, however, have aircraft capable of flying the long distances involved without a stop.

The Irish registered Translift Airways is to begin operations from British airports immediately with two re-engined McDonnell Douglas DC8s capable of flying 235 passengers non-stop to all the main American holiday destinations. Next year Unijet, one of Britain's leading tour operators, will begin charter services with two long range Boeing 767s, each capable of carrying 326 passengers.

"While it is unusual for a tour operator to take on this kind of commitment we have done so because there is a shortage of genuine long range aircraft in British charter airline fleets," Chris Parker, chairman of Unijet, said.

The chairman of Translift, P.J. McGoldrick, said that he had sold more than half of the capacity on his aircraft even before the season had begun and was certain that demand would grow.

The Unijet aircraft will be operated by Air UK Leisure, based in Stansted, Essex, and will begin services from London and Manchester to Orlando from May 1 next year. Seats will be sold to other tour operators as well as to Unijet, which will use the aircraft to extend its charter routes to the Caribbean, Africa and South America as well as the American west coast.

A third Translift DC8 will be used for long distance cargo carrying — another fast growing area with a shortage of capacity.

Leading article, page 15



Vanquished: Cruz sending McGuigan into the ropes in their Las Vegas clash in June 1986.

'Perfect' family is set on fire

POLICE were last night trying to unravel the mystery of how a "perfect" family came to suffer horrific burns after apparently being doused with petrol and set alight.

Paul Hooper, aged 44, a clerical worker, suffered 80 per cent burns in the incident at his home in Copnor, Hampshire, and was fighting for his life in hospital. His wife Ann, aged 36, is also critically ill. Their sons Terry, aged nine, being treated for neck burns, and Daryl, aged 13, suffering shock, are in the same hospital as their father in Cosham. Their mother was transferred to a specialist burns unit in Bristol.

Robert Holmes, aged 25, a neighbour, said: "I was just sitting in our front room when I saw Terry run past... on fire. I ran outside and grabbed hold of him, putting my arms and body around him to smother the flames.

"Another neighbour, Jim Craig, put an anorak on him and that managed to get the flames out. Then the mother came out. We got hold of the two boys and brought them into our house so they did not see their mother on fire.

"I ran back to the mother and Jim put his coat on her. Then another bloke and I went up to the house. He kicked the door in and we just called to Paul. He came out and sat on the wall. He was so burned... Ann was lying in the road in front of the house, rolled up in Jim's coat."

Mr Holmes, a sales manager, added: "We just don't know what happened at all. They were what everybody describes as a perfect family

Detective Chief Inspector Nick Imber praised the efforts of Mr Holmes, Mr Craig and Karl Pilka, who kicked down the door of the Hoopers' house during the incident on Sunday night. "If it were not for them, I am convinced the situation would have been much worse," he said.

"We cannot understand why anybody should do this. There is apparently no motive. They were a lovely family who went everywhere and did everything together."

Mr Imber said that Terry Hooper, his neck in flames, was apparently trying to break into someone else's house to get help when he was spotted by Mr Holmes.

Brent poll tax cut exorcises hard-left ghost

Under a vigorous Tory leadership, that former bastion of extremism, Brent council, is finally shrugging off the 'loony' image which dogged it throughout the 1980s, reports DOUGLAS BROOME

collection campaign launched by the Tories had dramatically increased the proportion of poll tax income collected. The council took a 17.5 per cent. Residents who agreed to waive their right to pay by ten instalments and make a single lump sum payment will get a further 5 per cent discount, reducing their poll tax bill to £257.

Bob Blackman, the council's Tory leader, said the reduction had been made possible because a tough poll tax

losses caused by non-payment would be cut from £70 to £54.

Checks on the poll tax register had also shown duplication of names and other errors which had led to 10,000 of the nearly 200,000 names being deleted. The remainder would be "vigorously pursued" if they failed to pay.

As a result, by the end of last month, the council had collected 90 per cent of its target of £45.4 million, he said. The surcharge to cover

there will be no amnesty for them," Dorman Long, leader of the Labour group, said. "This is diabolical. This figure can only be achieved at the cost of massive cuts in staff and services. It does not look like the action of a prudent or judicious council."

Mr Long said that he was alarmed at the council's reduction of £2 million in provision for bad debts and its decision to raid reserves for £1.2 million to help pay for the cut in poll tax. "It is poppycock to suggest that they are doing better in collecting the poll tax. We know that collection is much worse than last year in spite of the scare tactics and threats they have been using," he said.

The Labour group would call in the district auditor if it

found the council's financial position was being jeopardised to cut the poll tax bill.

At the same time, it was disclosed that Leslie Winters, a leading Conservative member of the council, was facing legal action for alleged non-payment of business rates.

Mr Winters, a spokesman for the Tory group when Labour was in power, said that the claim related to a business which had not traded for 18 months and that he was having discussions with council officials.

He said he believed that details of the action being taken against him had been leaked as part of an attempt to smear him and the Tory group in order to distract attention from the poll tax reduction.

British Gas accused of sex bias

By TIM JONES

AN INDUSTRIAL tribunal heard yesterday that a woman who was demoted from her £45,000 a year job with British Gas was told: "Thank God you have taken it like a man, although you are the wrong shape."

Hilary Williams, aged 48, a former southwest regional marketing manager with British Gas, is claiming sexual discrimination against the company. Sue Ashby, her solicitor, said that the comment was made by Tony Roddis, the regional marketing director.

She said that Ms Williams, from Weston, Bath, Avon, would argue that she had been relegated to a lower post during a company reorganisation because of her sex.

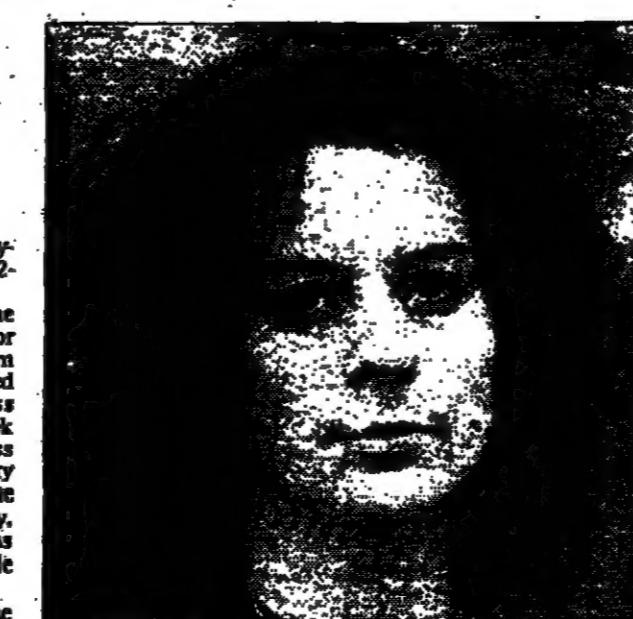
The tribunal was told that a black and white video stills camera recorded the raid and the jury was shown photographs of the two teenagers lying on the floor and a masked man holding a shotgun.

Mr Elfer told the court that the shot went off immediately after she handed over the money at the garage as two men had been seen earlier that night at another filling station eight miles away but had left after being spotted. He said Chowdhury had been anxious to raise money.

Mr Elfer told the court that a black and white video stills camera recorded the raid and the jury was shown photographs of the two teenagers lying on the floor and a masked man holding a handgun.

Quizzed by Douglas Draycott QC, for the defence of Ms Williams, he said nothing had happened to cause the shooting. There had been no sudden movement or resistance from anybody.

Mr Elfer said the robbery might never have taken place



Sophie Ashworth, garage owner's daughter, said the shot went off after she handed over the money at the garage as two men had been seen earlier that night at another filling station eight miles away but had left after being spotted. He said Chowdhury had been anxious to raise money.

Mr Elfer told the court that a black and white video stills camera recorded the raid and the jury was shown photographs of the two teenagers lying on the floor and a masked man holding a handgun.

In fact, Mr Elfer said, it appeared that both men were armed as a woman saw two men run off, one with a sawn-off shotgun, the other with a handgun.

The trial continues today.

Airlines to meet long-haul demand

By HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT

TWO new long-haul air lines are to be created to cater for the growing demand from British tourists for holidays in America, the Caribbean and the Far East.

The travel industry is reporting higher bookings than ever, with long-haul growing faster than journeys to the Mediterranean.

Few airlines, however, have aircraft capable of flying the long distances involved without a stop.

The Irish registered Translift Airways is to begin operations from British airports immediately with two re-engined McDonnell Douglas DC8s capable of flying 235 passengers non-stop to all the main American holiday destinations. Next year Unijet, one of Britain's leading tour operators, will begin charter services with two long range Boeing 767s, each capable of carrying 326 passengers.

"While it is unusual for a tour operator to take on this kind of commitment we have done so because there is a shortage of genuine long range aircraft in British charter airline fleets," Chris Parker, chairman of Unijet, said.

The chairman of Translift, P.J. McGoldrick, said that he had sold more than half of the capacity on his aircraft even before the season had begun and was certain that demand would grow.

The Unijet aircraft will be operated by Air UK Leisure, based in Stansted, Essex, and will begin services from London and Manchester to Orlando from May 1 next year. Seats will be sold to other tour operators as well as to Unijet, which will use the aircraft to extend its charter routes to the Caribbean, Africa and South America as well as the American west coast.

A third Translift DC8 will be used for long distance cargo carrying — another fast growing area with a shortage of capacity.

Leading article, page 15

Back to work

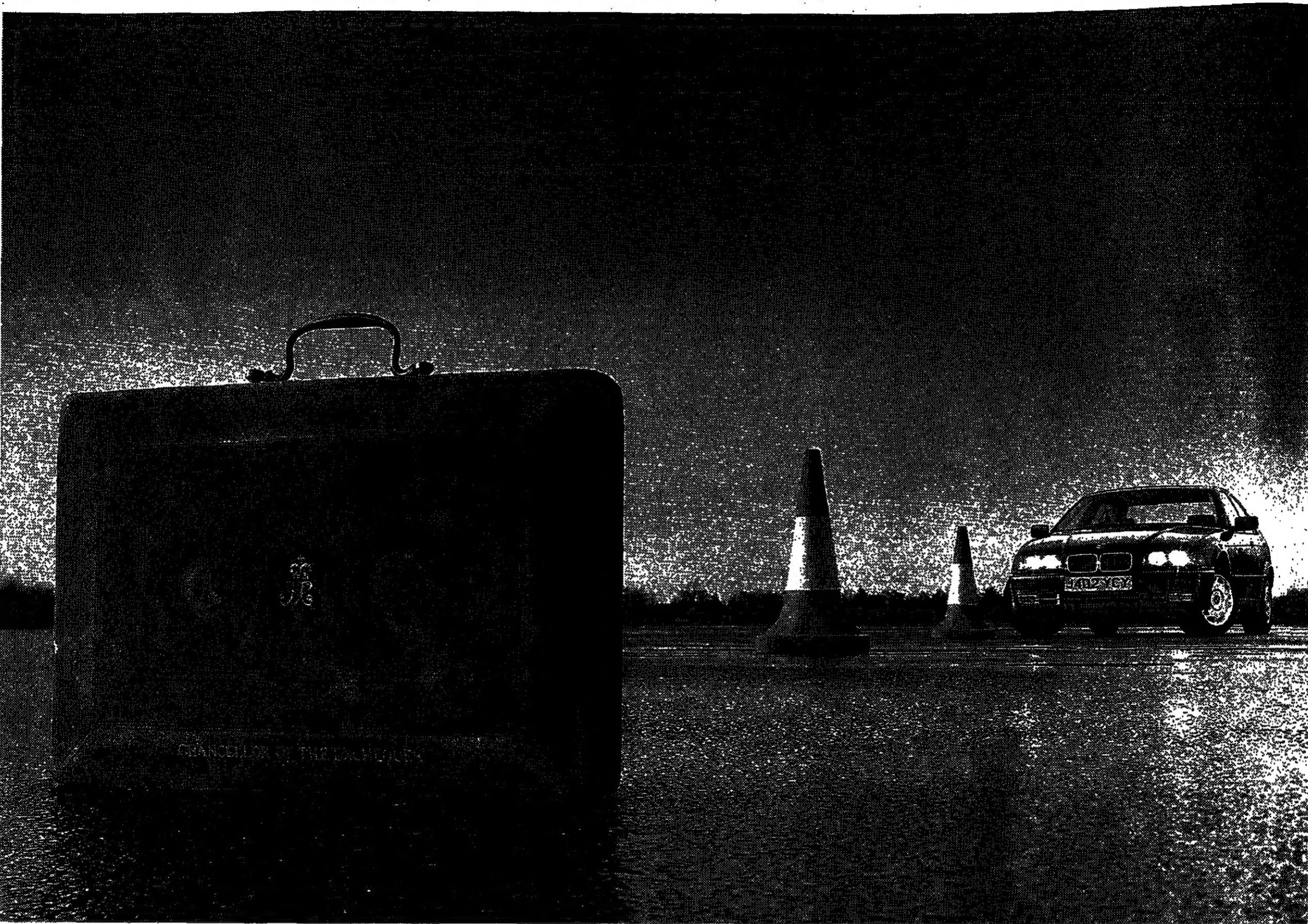
Stephanie Slater, who was kidnapped for eight days by a man posing as a house buyer, returned to work yesterday as an estate agency sales negotiator. Miss Slater, aged 25, was greeted warmly by colleagues at Shipways, Great Barr, Birmingham, including Kevin Wains, the branch manager who risked his life to deliver the £175,000 ransom which had been demanded by her kidnapper.

Police post

Sir Leonard Peach, former chief executive of the National Health Service management board, is to become chairman of the Police Complaints Authority in August, replacing the present chairman, Judge Francis Ferre, who is retiring. Sir Leonard, aged 59, is director of personnel and corporate affairs at IBM.

Royal catch

A surgeon has been netted off Weymouth, Dorset, for the first time since 1907. The 4ft fish is in quarantine in Weymouth Sea Life Centre and will stay there unless the Queen, who is entitled to all waters, rules otherwise.



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Recorded crime toll rises by 16% as clear-up figures fall

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

RECORDED crime in England and Wales rose by 16 per cent last year with 5.3 million offences reported to the police, according to Home Office figures published yesterday.

The statistics obscure the fact that the average annual rate of increase between 1982 and 1992 was six per cent and that there are numerous reasons why an increase might be recorded.

Almost 30 per cent of recorded "crimes" were car crimes, where relatively high reporting and recording rates result from insurance requirements. Figures for sex crimes often result from local police tactics: whether they make the reporting of rape easier or how seriously they pursue homosexual offenders.

The figures show that 94 per cent of reported offences were crimes against property, 5 per cent violent crimes, and 1 per cent other crimes.

A total of 730,000 more offences were recorded. The increase includes 140,000 more thefts from motor vehicles (up 18 per cent), 90,000 more thefts of vehicles (up 18 per cent), 210,000 more burglaries (up 21 per cent) and 88,000 more offences of criminal damage (up 12 per cent).

The police recorded 265,000 offences of violent crime, an increase of 15,000 on 1990. Of these, 174,000

were wounding offences, 45,000 cases of robbery, 29,000 sexual offences and 16,000 cases of murder and serious wounding. Offences of violence rose by 5,600 (up three per cent); sexual offences by 300 (up 1 per cent); and robberies by 9,100 (up 25 per cent). Robberies accounted for 50 per cent of the total increase in violent crime.

The number of reported rapes rose by 660, to 4,000; though there was a drop in 1991 to 964 in the number of offences of indecency between males.

The overall clear-up rate declined from 32 per cent to 29 per cent, as the rise in recorded crime outweighed a 7 per cent improvement in solving offences.

The 43 police forces in England and Wales all recorded increases in crime but the 16 per cent overall rise disguised wide variations. Cumbria recorded a rise from 33,300 to 45,000 (up 35 per cent) and Kent a rise from 103,300 to 138,800 (up 34 per cent), while Cleveland recorded a rise from 73,800 to 78,000 (up 5 per cent) and Suffolk from 37,700 to 39,900 (up 5 per cent).

While expressing serious concern, the Association of Chief Police Officers cautioned against taking the statistics at face value. Albert Pacey, the chief constable of Gloucestershire, said that the

threshold of tolerance had lowered for some people.

"Add to this the vastly increased availability of valuable items, more accurate police reporting systems, a clear increase in people's readiness to report some types of crime — including sexual offences, criminal damage, and indeed vehicle theft and burglary — together with other social factors, and you have the ingredients for a high level of crime. No single factor holds the key," he said.

The government has released the figures earlier than usual in what Labour politicians saw as an effort to minimise their embarrassment potential ahead of the official general election campaign. The Opposition also attacked the Tories' law and order image. Roy Hattersley, the shadow home secretary, said: "The government cannot shirk the blame. It is the home secretary who should be in the dock."

Greener fields: Jeremy Garside, conservation officer with Cleveland Wildlife Trust, on part of the 2,500 acres at Tees Mouth which will form Britain's biggest man-made nature reserve. The £11 million scheme, unveiled yesterday by Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, will feature lakes, salt marshes and woodland to attract wildlife. Teesside Focus, pages 26-29

Anti-hunt MP tells of threats

A Labour MP who opposes hunting has said that he has been threatened. He has installed a panic button connecting his home to the local police station to protect his family.

Ron Davies, MP for Caerphilly, Mid Glamorgan, a sponsor of the bill to outlaw hunting, said that he was almost run off the road while driving home and received an anonymous warning that a dead cow would be dumped on his lawn. He was later confronted by two men while walking his dog.

A "set-up" fight between his dog and another ensued and Mr Davies said one of the men told him: "We've got you this time. That dog of yours is a killer."

Murder charge

William O'Donnell, aged 36, of Peniarth, Dyfed, was remanded in custody until March 30 charged with the murder of Adele James, aged 25, who was found strangled at Pembroke Dock.

Top brass

Brighton and Rastrick are Yorkshire's brass band champions after winning the regional competition. Grimesthorpe Colliery was second and both bands will represent Yorkshire in the national finals in London in October.

Boy injured

Matthew Allen, aged nine, of Grimethorpe, South Yorkshire, is in intensive care after being hit by a car while trying to take Casseys from the centre of the road, police said.

Lawyer's loan halts nuns case

A FORMER nun's High Court property action against an order of French sisters was adjourned yesterday when her lawyers, including a solicitor with a "personal stake" in the dispute, withdrew from the case.

Patricia Wright, aged 60, is at loggerheads with The Sisters of the Congregation of St Martin of Tours over possession of a house in Highgate, north London. The property had been her home from 1940 to 1981, when she signed it over to the nuns on joining their order. In 1985, she left them and moved back in with another nun, Sister Denise Dalichoux.

During a five-day hearing in London, Miss Wright has refused an offer of £55,000 or a £75,000 interest-free loan for life to settle the dispute.

The adjournment was prompted by a loan of £100,000 to Miss Wright by her solicitor, Anthony Keogh, with which she has bought a house in Ruislip, Middlesex, where she lives with Sister Dalichoux. The loan made it "quite improper or at least undesirable" for Mr Keogh to continue to act, said Mr Justice Buckley. He did not see how Mr Keogh could advise her on a settlement offer when he had such a personal involvement.

Miss Wright's counsel, Christopher Strachan, also withdrew after saying that he felt professionally embarrassed in continuing without a solicitor. Mr Justice Buckley said Miss Wright should be given independent advice on her position. No date was set for the resumed hearing.

Fry-ups take holiday from hotel menus

BY LIN JENKINS

THE traditional fry-up as the quintessential English holiday breakfast is vanishing, in favour of soya milk, polyunsaturated margarine and decaffeinated coffee, according to a new guide.

When the *Healthy Holiday Guide* was first published 14 years ago, only 176 hotels and guest houses qualified for inclusion. Now there are nearly 2,000 entries of establishments which welcome vegetarians, vegans and slimmers, rather than regarding them as an insult to the hospitality offered. The guide also lists leisure facilities, as more people demand healthier holidays rather than days of indulgence and relaxation.

Catherine Mooney, the author, said vegetarianism was still a relatively esoteric notion when the guide was first published. "Cornflakes have long been upstaged by the once despised guinea pig food, muesli, and guest house proprietors find that they have to be as adept at con-

coking vegetarian kedgeree for breakfast as they used to have to be with the fry-up," she said.

"It would appear that the old notion of a holiday being a time of indulgence, or even a break from routine, is a thing of the past: work hard, play hard and holiday hard is perhaps a more commonplace leisure expectation of the 1990s than is generally realised."

Another guide, *Eat, Drink and Sleep Smoke Free 1992*, lists 2,000 places where smoking is banned in eating areas. David Pollock, director of Action on Smoking and Health, said: "Smoke free air is now a significant factor in helping customers decide on their choice of hotel, restaurant or pub."

Healthy Holiday Guide 1992 (by Catherine Mooney, £7.95); *Eat, Drink and Sleep Smoke Free 1992* (by Catherine Mooney, £8.95); both published by Headway Books

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6 MACHINE

MPs demand pension law changes after Maxwell raids

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A COMMONS committee yesterday called for a drastic overhaul of pension laws to protect pensioners and prevent employers from "looting" their pension funds as Robert Maxwell had done.

In a critical report, the all-party social security select committee calls for "medieval" trusts laws to be replaced by a secure legal framework for pension funds. It recommends that a public enquiry, possibly a royal commission, should be set up immediately after the general election to draw up a new

pensions bill, to be enacted within three years. The enquiry, which would collect evidence from the public, would be expected to report within nine months so that legislation could be introduced in the second year of a new government. The committee makes clear that the speed of the enquiry was more important than its make-up. It could be a social security department committee.

The 95-page report presents a scathing indictment of the lax legislation covering pension funds and

A new Pension Act in the next Parliament replacing present trust law.

An urgent public enquiry to recommend new laws within nine months.

A revamped Occupational Pensions Board with powers to fine law breakers should supervise pension funds.

The enquiry should consider a pension compensation fund for the future.

An incoming government should safeguard Maxwell pensioners whose assets have been stolen. Current pensions should continue to be paid

and lost pensions should be reinstated.

The next government should tell banks who hold disputed share certificates of the pension funds that they have a moral, if not legal, responsibility to return those assets. Independent custodian trustees should hold pension fund investment assets.

The enquiry should decide whether a pensioner can have the right to move his pension assets to another financial institution annually. Contributors and pensioners should be able to veto the transfer of their assets.

criticises the regulatory bodies and the government for allowing millions of pounds to be siphoned off from the Mirror Group Newspapers pension fund.

The report suggests that the Occupational Pensions Board and the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation have been ineffective in preventing what could be widespread abuse of pension funds.

"Pontius Pilate would have blushed at the spectacle of so many witnesses washing their hands in public before the committee of their responsibilities in this affair," the report says. It criticises professional advisers for deflecting the committee's questions to other experts.

The Commons is also criticised. "Parliament has a responsibility towards those in occupational pension schemes that is has not adequately fulfilled," the report says.

The MPs make clear that their investigation on pension funds was initiated in July 1991, months before Robert Maxwell's death, and their recommendations go far wider than the Mirror Group Newspapers fund. However, the report insists



Bottles galore: Victoria Coode of Christie's with a few of the more than 3,000 bottles of French wine and champagnes from the late Robert

Maxwell's wine cellar at Headington Hill Hall, his Oxford home. They are to be auctioned at Christie's in London on March 26 (Sarah Jane

Checkland writes). The cellar includes 772 magnums, or double-sized bottles, and 12 double-magnums, with 2,000 normal sized bottles.

that any party forming the next government should consider moves to safeguard the position of Maxwell pensioners whose assets were plundered.

The first task is to ensure that current pensions continue to be paid, and those who have already lost their pen-

sions have those pensions reinstated," the report says. The government should tell banks which received pension funds from Mr Maxwell as security against loans that they had a moral, if not legal, duty to return the money. The independent enquiry should look at whether a pen-

sion compensation fund should be set up and whether it could operate within a new pensions act.

The committee's document reflects the efforts of its chairman, Frank Field, Labour MP for Birkenhead, to produce a unanimous report before Parliament was

dissolved. A report on the Maxwell brothers, which will go to the Commons, and evidence from other trustees is to be published separately this week.

Differences between committee members were reflected at yesterday's press conference, suggesting that Labour MPs had wanted to be more critical of the government and City organisations. Mr Field admitted that a section covering the history of pension law, which is understood to criticise successive governments, was taken out.

The report does say that with hindsight, political parties made a big error in letting the present system develop in such a piecemeal way.

That there have not been scandals of an equal dimension to that perpetrated on Maxwell-owned pension funds owes more to the decency of employers and the integrity of trustees than it does to trust law, which provides the legal regulation for the second most important and fastest-growing sector of personal wealth [after houses]," the MPs say.

"We believe that pension funds should be governed by laws analogous to those gov-

erning companies. We believe, along with many of those whom we interviewed, that change in the law is urgent."

The report criticises the Occupational Pensions Board for failing to monitor adequately the Maxwell-run schemes. That the Secretary of State for Social Security told the committee that his department was in discussion with some of the Maxwell-run pension funds to transfer funds from the national insurance scheme in order that the guaranteed minimum pension payments could be met suggests something of the scale of the fraud which has taken place and the failure of the regulatory system," the MPs say.

The new Occupational Pensions Board, which would become the main supervisory body for the pensions industry, would have ten new functions. It would monitor the appointment and disappearance of trustees and have the right of veto over unsuitable appointments.

It would co-ordinate the roles of professional advisers and co-ordinate all the official bodies involved with policing funds. It would also act as a centre for the registering of warning signs and worrying trends and monitor the winding up of funds.

The report suggests that pension fund accounts should be lodged with the board within seven months of the end of the account year. Pension fund members should be given annual statements of their scheme's assets and contributors should have the right to veto the transfer of their assets.

The MPs say the way the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (IMRO) carried out its duties "suggests to the committee that this aspect of the system of self-regulation is — when the chips are down — little short of a tragic comedy".

The present self-regulatory IMRO system "shows itself to be completely inadequate when faced by a clever fraudster", the report says.

**Banks criticised, page 1
Leading article, page 15
Complex issues, page 23**

Cheques stop and despair starts

BY BILL FROST

ERNEST Oborne learnt early last Friday morning that he was to be deprived of a £600-a-month cheque from the Maxwell Communication workers pension scheme.

Watching a television news bulletin, he and his wife heard that, along with 8,500 other Maxwell company pensioners, he was to be cut off without a penny at the end of June. Mirror Group Newspapers could no longer support all their former publisher's victims.

"I was devastated. It felt as though I had been hit by a steamroller," Mr Oborne said yesterday. "Ever since before Christmas, when the full extent of the financial crisis became known, I had expected the worst. Then it is confirmed and the nightmare comes true."

Mr Oborne was building manager at the *Daily Mirror*'s Holborn Circus offices in central London for 24 years. Not long before retirement he discovered his pension had been transferred from the newspaper fund as Maxwell moved off building services to another corner of his tottering empire.

"To live like this has been soul-destroying. Most nights I cannot get to sleep and, if I do, I wake up in the early

hours worrying. I have lost a stone in weight over the last couple of months," Mr Oborne said. His wife, Violet, aged 69, had been "absolutely destroyed" by the loss of the couple's Maxwell pension.

With a £160 monthly mortgage on their bungalow at Goring-by-Sea, West Sussex, the Obones now fear repossession by the building society. "The state pension of £86 a week for the two of us is nowhere near enough. We have two poll tax payments to make and work that needs to be carried out on the house," Mr Oborne said.

The couple have cancelled their annual holiday to Spain, cut the weekly shopping list and are preparing for penury. Mr Oborne said: "I would try to get a job, but I am too old. Eventually I will have to swallow my pride and seek cash help from the social security office."

He welcomed the select committee's recommendations but said they had come too late. "The law should have been changed years ago. There were those who knew what Maxwell was up to. Employees like me thought he was just arrogant but now we find out he was crooked too."

New laws estimated to take three years

BY LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

AN ENQUIRY committee into occupational pensions would take up to two years to produce draft laws which could be brought in a year later, the Institute of Actuaries said yesterday.

Roy Brimblecombe, chairman of the institute's pensions committee, said: "They would be starting with a fresh piece of paper." They could not just adapt existing laws.

For a pensions act to be implemented within three years it would have to be strongly supported by the government. Mike Brown, of the National Association of Pension Funds, which represents schemes covering 7 million employees and 4 million pensioners, said that he hoped legislation could be in place sooner. In the meantime there would be little redress for pensioners in schemes which collapse.

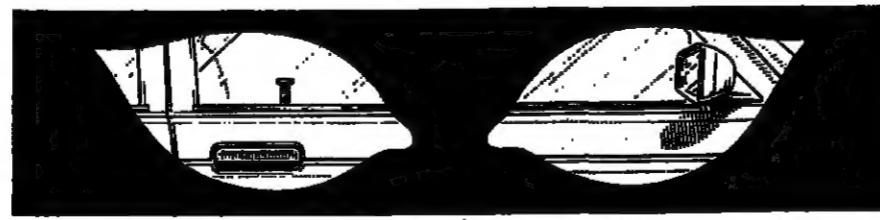
New legislation is likely to

force the 200,000 pension schemes not run by insurance companies to have independent trustees. The Occupational Pensions Board, which monitors schemes contracted out of the state earnings related pension scheme, could be enlarged to vet them.

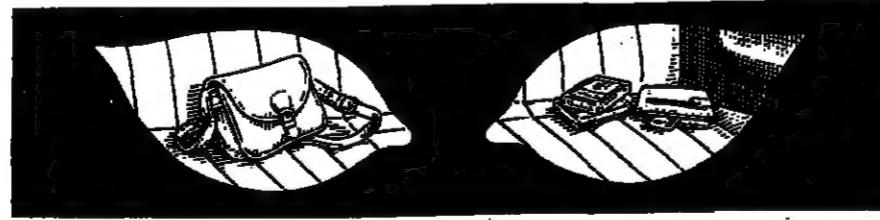
The National Association of Pension Funds called in January for a balance between member and employer trustees and the appointment of independent trustees. It wants custodians unrelated to the employing company to hold assets and confirmation by auditors that assets are being held and invested. The financial services act compensation scheme should be extended to cover occupational pension schemes, it says.

Mr Brimblecombe said legislation should safeguard pension scheme members properly, and strengthen the role of actuaries.

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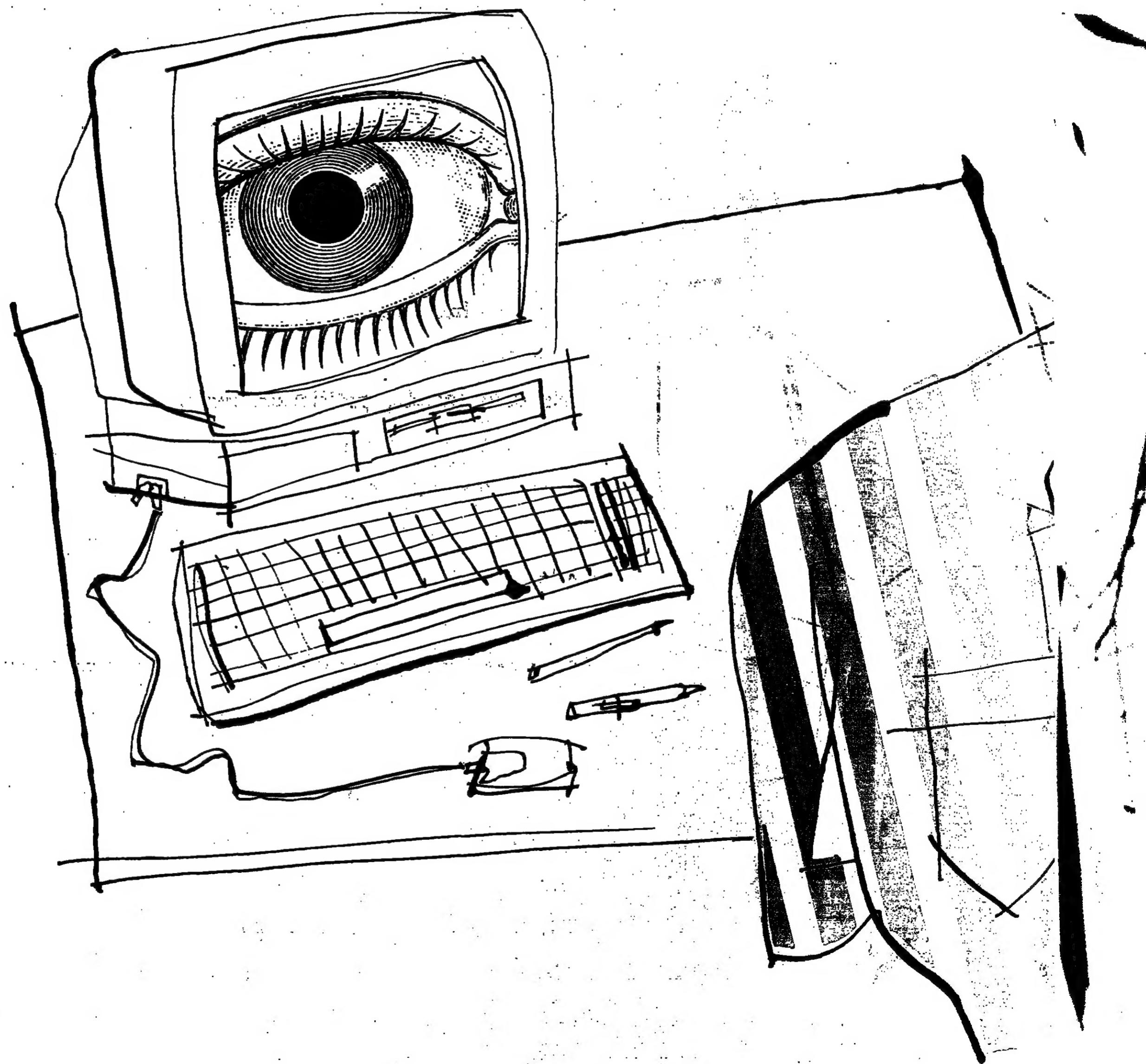


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55 55 C

Peace prize was just reward for Israel's hardline man of war



Moment of history: Begin embracing Sadat after they signed the Israeli-Egyptian pact

MENACHEM Begin, Israel's then prime minister, was awarded the Nobel peace prize jointly with Sadat, the Egyptian president of the day, after they signed a treaty in 1979. Yet, four years later, he resigned from public life after Israel invaded Lebanon. Since then he had lived as a virtual recluse.

Mr Begin towered over Israeli history in a way matched only by one of his predecessors, David Ben-Gurion. He was a militant Zionist and defender of Israeli interests. Yet he became a frail figure, especially after the death of his wife, Aliza, in 1982. No reason was ever given for his surprise decision to opt out of public life in September 1983, but observers had little doubt that her death and the spiralling Jewish death toll in the war in Lebanon had combined to tilt the balance of his mind.

Before the foundation of Israel in 1948, Begin's ruthless role in Irgun Zvai Leumi, the Jewish terrorist group, helped weaken British resolve; yet his statesmanlike dealings with Sadat between 1977 and 1979 enabled Israel to make its first and only peace treaty with an Arab state. Before his physical and mental decline, Begin was a formidable Knesset performer and an unflinching nationalist who stood up to those even more hardline than himself who were reluctant to abandon the occupied Sinai as the price of peace with Egypt.

Begin, much less military in bearing than most of his political colleagues, was unwisely steamrollered into the 1982 invasion of Lebanon by General Ariel Sharon, his minister of defence and a man he looked on rather as he might a much-loved but wayward son. Although the

Christopher Walker, who knew Menachem Begin well, examines the paradox of a leader with a terrorist past who made peace with a bitter foe

initiative was General Sharon's, Begin caught the full blast of the anti-war protest, who mounted a telling round-the-clock vigil on the pavement outside his official Jerusalem residence, relentlessly adding every Jewish death to a macabre makeshift scoreboard.

Like Yitzhak Shamir, his successor, who helped lead the rival Stern Gang terrorist group, Begin was a staunch believer in Israel's historical right to rule over the occupied West Bank, which he always referred to as "Judea and Samaria". Although he was prepared to compromise over the Sinai, which did not have the same biblical connotations, there

is no reason to believe that he would have proved more yielding than Mr Shamir over the West Bank or the Gaza Strip, or even the Golan Heights which he annexed in 1981.

"I approve the annexation of the Golan Heights and that is still viable today. I am sure that this will not change," he said of the strategic Syrian territory in a rare radio interview a year ago.

Begin's hard line and his record as a Jewish fighter enabled him to come to an agreement with Sadat, a very different sort of man with whom he struck up an improbable first-name accord, and make it stick. Al-

"In many ways, he changed the face of the country, losing the old David against Goliath image and replacing it with a harsher outlook more akin to those of other Arab countries in the region," the late Ruth Cole, a former Jerusalem correspondent of *The Sunday Times*, said.

In 1977, after 29 years' continuous rule by the centre-left Labour party, Begin snatched his ultra-right Likud to power, a position it still maintains. He was sensitive to American criticism, but little moved by the frequent attacks from liberal-minded Jewish intellectuals living in Europe whom he frequently called "self-hating Jews".

Christopher Walker was Jerusalem correspondent of The Times, 1979-85.

*Funeral, page 1
Obituary, page 17*

Fighting flares up in Croatia

Belgrade rally calls for general strike

FROM TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE AND ANNE McELVOY IN ZAGREB

THOUSANDS rallied in Belgrade yesterday demanding the resignation of Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian president. Speakers called for restoration of the monarchy in Serbia and a general strike.

Addressing a crowd of more than 25,000, Vuk Draskovic, leader of the Serbian Renewal Movement, Serbia's biggest opposition party, accused the Socialist government of gambling and losing the gains of two centuries of Serbian history. "In one year we have lost all that we won in two Balkan wars and two world wars," he declared. "Let workers down their tools, students boycott lectures and children not go to school. If for a few days Serbs becomes a country of silence and immobility... then democracy would be saved."

Although the Belgrade demonstration drew a poor turnout, the opposition

claimed a political victory, saying that those who had come to the protest had "conquered fear". Before the rally, government ministers had denounced the opposition as "national traitors".

The demonstration in Belgrade took place as European Community talks resumed in Brussels in an attempt to find a solution to Yugoslav ethnic disputes. But the arrival in Yugoslavia of the head of the United Nations peacekeeping force was overshadowed at the weekend by the worst outbreak of violence in Croatia since a ceasefire came into force two months ago and by the rise of tensions inside Bosnia. In Brussels, representatives of Bosnia's Muslim, Serb and Croat groups were preparing yesterday to settle an anodyne list of general principles for the organisation of a new Bosnian state.

The upsurge of fighting in

Croatia has spread fears that extreme factions on both sides in the conflict are taking their last chance to impede the deployment of the peacekeeping troops. Nine people died in an artillery attack on Osijek at the weekend and a further 24 were injured when the city's hospital and shopping centre were hit. Croatian sources claimed that the army had launched a big attack on Sunday night on the village of Nustar, eastern Slavonia's no-man's-land, and in the nearby village of Cepin a civilian was reported to have died in a mortar attack on the national guard's headquarters. Fighting spread on Sunday to the central front, with Belice coming under sustained attack. An air alert, the first in several weeks, was sounded yesterday in the industrial city of Sisak.

The UN is due to begin sending in peacekeeping troops in groups of 300 from the end of this week. The main condition of the deployment remains a ceasefire stable enough to guarantee the safety of the blue helmets.

There are indications that several of the attacks, notably those in rural Slavonia, may have been provoked by local Croatian commanders who are unconvinced that UN intervention will be of benefit to the country. While President Tudjman bases in the glory of having secured recognition at the price of accepting the UN presence inside Croatia's borders, many people in the war zones believe that this is a useless gain without a commitment to retake lost territory — a strategy ruled out by the arrival of peacekeepers.

Milan Dedakovic, the commander of Vukovar until it fell into Serbian hands last November, said in Vienna at the weekend that the arrival of the UN would only confirm the "robbery of Croatia's territory", a third of which is now controlled by Serb-led forces. He appealed to Croats to "fight on to liberate your homeland". Mr Dedakovic, although in disgrace after his quarrel with Dr Tudjman, still commands considerable support in Slavonia.

A spokesman for the Armenian president said four people — one soldier and three civilians — died in the attack on the base at Arlik yesterday. He said the situation at the base, 15 miles from the Turkish border, was now calm. No weapons were seized.

Another Armenian official said the attack followed reports that Azerbaijanis were seizing large quantities of weapons from Commonwealth bases in Azerbaijan and that Russian tank crews had taken part in operations against Armenian forces.

On the other side, Serb irregulars do not consider their task complete until Osijek is in their hands, and do not share the Belgrade government's enthusiasm for the deployment. Osijek's residents, who had begun to return to normal life since the beginning of the year, were yesterday preparing for a return to their shelters.

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Armenians attack missiles base

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

AS DOZENS of heavily armed Armenian militants laid siege to a former Soviet anti-aircraft missile base inside Armenia yesterday, demanding the handing over of heavy weapons for their war with Azerbaijan, Douglas Hogg, the Foreign Office minister, flew to Moscow for discussions with Russian leaders on the fighting over the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Mr Hogg, who will travel on to Azerbaijan tomorrow and Armenia on Thursday, said Britain backed a Russian-led mediating effort to end the conflict, which has killed more than 1,500 people in the past four years.

"Britain supports the initiative that... the Russians have taken to promote in the first instance a ceasefire, followed if possible by mediation, maybe using the mechanism of the CSCE," Mr Hogg told reporters before leaving for Moscow. Last month the 48-nation Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe agreed in Prague to call for a ceasefire.

But yesterday's assault threatened to drag the Commonwealth further into the conflict even as the last of an ex-Soviet rifle regiment completed its pull-out from the enclave at the weekend, symbolically ending the Commonwealth's direct role in the age-old conflict.

In the past two days, both President Ter-Petrosian of Armenia and Yegub Mamikonyan, the acting president of Azerbaijan, have expressed their desire for an immediate ceasefire. But neither side appears willing to change its negotiating position. Baku says Karabakh is an inalienable part of Azerbaijan, while Yerevan insists the mostly Armenian enclave has the right of self-determination.

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Across the disputed region, the roar of artillery and tank fire drowned pale of peace. Armenian defence officials said Azerbaijani howitzers lobbed shells into Martuni, east of the Karabakh capital Stepanakert, and Mi-24 helicopters strafed Karchin, a remote Armenian-populated village just outside the enclave.

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Lombardy cheers the irresistible rise of Umberto Bossi

UMBERTO Bossi, the leader of the Lombardy League, has begun his general election campaign by offering northern Italians a "new Risorgimento" to liberate them from "the thives of Rome", as the Christian Democrat party accused him of seeking to dismantle the country.

Hundreds of portly businessmen and their wives in furs leapt to their feet chanting "Bravo, Bossi, bravo!" when the senator held his first campaign meeting for the contest on April 5, at Varese in the foothills of the Alps.

"The north is ready to go into Europe," Signor Bossi thundered from the rostrum. "We always have been in Europe. We have fewer state

to of federalism," he said, shaking his fist as his burly bodyguards watched entranced. "It is finished for the thives of Rome."

Signor Bossi's rhetoric was not lost on Angelo Alipio, who owns a small textiles firm that has been badly hurt by the recession. "In Rome, people live well," he snorted. "They have government jobs and work only six hours a day. Foreign competition from the Third World is terrible here. The south does not pay as many taxes as we do."

In repose, Signor Bossi, aged 50, looked deceptively like a schoolmaster in his tweed jacket, khaki serge trousers and brown zip-up boots. But his oratory electrified the crowd.

"What is needed is a new Risorgimento, a Risorgimen-

to of the platform of the Northern League to build a 'republic of the north' in Lombardy, Liguria, Piedmont, the Veneto and Emilia Romagna.

Parallel leagues have sprung up in the rest of Italy to try to establish republics of the centre and south. The republics would gather taxes and decide industrial policy. Defence and foreign policy would remain national.

Signor Bossi flatly accuses the traditional parties of protecting organised crime. "The little mafioso is born in Piazza del Gesù," he says, referring to the Roman square where the Christian Democrats have their headquarters.

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industries, and that means fewer mafiosi. The south is not ready."

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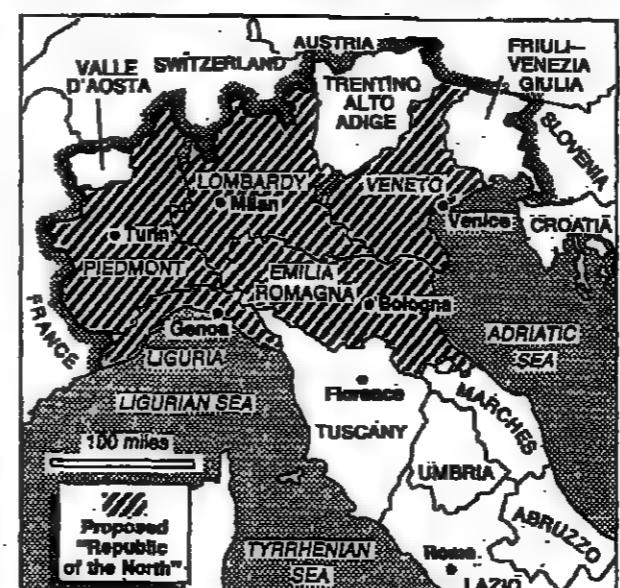
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"What is needed is a new

Risorgimento, a Risorgimen-



Film reopens the wounds of defeat

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

When Vietnamese troops overran the last French stronghold in Dien Bien Phu almost 40 years ago, Pierre Schoendoerffer used his last reel of film to record it.

An army cameraman, he had parachuted into the doomed position as the final offensive began. In the next 57 days he filmed the unceasing battle from the waterlogged trenches alongside soldiers who knew the situation was hopeless yet still fought on.

None of his original footage survived his capture and grueling stint as a prisoner of war, but his determination to record the events he witnessed never wavered.

Now his film about a defeat that signalled the end of France's colonial empire in Indo-China has opened in Paris and seems certain to become a box-office success.

As a testament to what it was like fighting and dying in the clinging mud and squalor of the monsoon season, *Dien Bien Phu* works impressively. The images of heroism, suffering and death that M Schoendoerffer first filmed with his Bell & Howell movie camera, then retained in his head

for all those years, are dramatically transferred to the big screen.

The film's impact is greatly enhanced by the fact that was shot on location in Vietnam, with the enthusiastic assistance of the authorities and, by the look of it, the Vietnamese army.

The battle was painlessly staged in terrain virtually identical to the original site, a shallow basin dominated by high ground that the Vietnamese forces, led by the legendary General Giap, hammered with heavy artillery. Dien Bien Phu was defended by about 15,000 troops, all regulars from France and its African colonies, including elite Foreign Legion and paratroop formations.

Some 10,000 of them were taken prisoner, almost half of them suffering wounds. Disease and terrible hardship in the POW camps was to kill 70 per cent of those who survived the battle. Wisely, perhaps, M Schoendoerffer's film does not really attempt to explain why the French were ever ordered to stand and fight in a position of no strategic value that was impossible to defend.

Woodrow Wyatt

This election does not seem a watershed like 1945 and 1979

The Tories won Aston, Birmingham, with large majorities in 1931 and 1935. They were confident of holding it in 1945. I was a 26-year-old brash Labour candidate flown back from India. I had little expectation of winning, but it was a diversion from the army, which I joined just before the war. Lozells, one of three wards, was known as 'kippers and curtains'. It was the only area with residents prosperous enough to have patterned white curtains in their windows and kippers regularly for high tea. It looked gloomily unenthusiastic with hardly a Labour poster. But the scent of the changing mood was rising above the kippers, and gradually Lozells windows began to show as many Labour posters as Conservative. Something startling was in the offing. It was the dramatic arrival of Labour's first, and large, overall majority, carrying me with it.

John Freeman, young and handsome, in his Rifle Brigade major's uniform, was Mover of the Address in reply to the Gracious Speech. "Today may rightly be regarded as 'D-Day' in the battle of the new Britain." The earth had moved. The nature state was born, altering the nature of society.

Nationalisation began in the idealistic hope that industries would work better without a profit motive, but collapsed when human nature reassured itself to prove the opposite. I guessed correctly that my seat at Bosworth was vanishing in 1970 when miners objected bitterly to high Labour taxation and their brass band played at a fete held in the grounds of a rich Conservative.

After 1945, it did not matter greatly which side won. Both the main parties were resigned to steady decline and were chiefly concerned with presenting alternative schemes for making the descent gently tolerable. But an election with as much impact as 1945 came in 1979. James Callaghan, Labour's leader, commented that he had felt a change of mood which could not be resisted. The Thatcher revolution started and, as with 1945, Britain was never to be quite the same again. A new vigour and a stronger pulse gave us the self-fulfilling confidence to believe Britain was not down and out but up and coming.

Will 1992 be as dynamic as 1945 or 1979? Is there an overwhelming instinct for change, which politicians encourage or resist, but which will relentlessly decide the result, whatever statistics or insults they hurl at each other? If so, much of the forward drive of Thatcherism will be halted and reversed, as the ship of state lists in the doldrums again until the crew is saved with debilitating years of inaction and longs to be on the move. There are discontents, complaints and pessimism about the steering in exceptionally difficult international economic waters. But I do not feel they equal the mood of change in 1945 and 1979. The prime minister is unlikely to change after the 10 per cent or so of the electorate who have yet to decide have had time to contemplate the alternative. Nor do I believe the fashionable theory that there will be a hung parliament.

Recently I met a young Swede with a Swedish law degree who is at Essex University to get additional qualifications in European Community law. He would have much preferred Oxford or Cambridge, but they still refuse to give degrees involving knowledge of the laws emanating from Brussels and the manner in which they are made. Mr Major should now make a feature of explaining why he would be better than Mr Kinnock at influencing our new Brussels overlords and exploiting their laws to our advantage. This, and Mr Kinnock's replies, would lift the campaign above kippers and curtains.

The female sex is not a minority and should be treated as real people, just like men, writes Janet Daley

A race of invisible women

International Women's Day has come and gone. Apart from raising the profile of failed women fighters, what function did it serve? For my part, I find it insulting to be given a commemorative day as if I were part of some neglected minority or endangered species. Women are not a vanishing tribe whose obscure interests must be brought to the attention of the world with an annual promotion. They are half the population of the planet.

Being female is as much the predominant human experience as being male. We are not helped by reinforcing the view that women's needs are so separate from the usual run of things that their case must be hyped, like those of Amazonian Indians or white whales. The thinking that gives rise to a special women's day arises from the feminist cult of consciousness-raising. What has been lost in all this heightened awareness of the special condition of women is the idea that it is perfectly normal to be female; there is nothing exceptional about it at all. Questions about women's role in society, which

cast them as some sort of outlandish fringe group, ought to strike us as absurd. Women do not have a "role to play in society", they are society, just as men are. Once accepted, this understanding of the absolutely mundane nature of being a woman could revolutionise sexual equality.

When you think of it, almost all of women's problems arise because they are not regarded (and do not regard themselves) as real people. They are ignored, abused and devoured not because they are female but because they are invisible. When Sue MacGregor lost control of a Radio 4 discussion, it was widely believed that boisterous male politicians had taken advantage of her feminine weakness. I would venture instead that they were not taking advantage of her; they simply forgot that she existed. Once the heat of the moment had overwhelmed them, Sue MacGregor

simply evaporated, in the way that women do when men get down to the business at hand.

Women at work are so widely assumed to be in menial or supporting roles that they merge into the background as an anonymous presence, identifiable only as adjuncts of the real people for whom they work. Meetings of men are served by legions of women distributing minutes and taking shorthand notes. We see a clutch of dignitaries enter some international meeting and automatically identify the men in the party as the true participants. If there are women in the group, they

are merely assistants. As often as not, women following behind their bosses at official gatherings are not even introduced (which of course would be unprofessionally rude if they were real people). A woman designer I know told me that when her boss brings visitors into the studio, he introduces them to all the men in the room but not to her. This is not, I am convinced, meant to insult her. So far as he is concerned, there are several people in the room and one woman.

Self-effacing invisibility in public combined with sympathetic support in private is the ideal

helpmeet face of the working woman. And therein lies the explanation of why more women do not get to the top in professional life. Women who "get on" in hierarchical institutions are the sort of women whom men like to work with. And what men want from women at work is support, flattery (not necessarily in the crude sense — just an acknowledgement of their unquestioned authority) and the kind of competitive perceptiveness that oils the wheels of office life. More than anything, perhaps, they want women who are prepared whenever necessary to cease

to exist. Which is to say, women who will not insist on intruding their egos, who will not demand to be noticed. Since it is precisely their lack of obtrusiveness which makes them attractive to male employers, the sort of women who survive the hurdles of working life

are the least likely to make it to the highest levels. Either they are temperamentally disinclined to aim so high (hence the myth of female lack of ambition) or they have become so adept at concealing their competitiveness that they cannot kick the habit. The kinds of trait which would earn a young man a reputation for having the right stuff for promotion would put a woman out on her ear at the earliest stages of her career.

There are plenty of women who are grumpy and assertive after all, whatever happens to all those domineering head prefects who emerge from the more robust girls' schools. The answer is that they tend not to do very well in the institutions where men choose which women to employ (which is why many of them stay on in female education and grow up to be headmistresses). Strong, self-willed women get weeded out early on in the race.

We need constantly to be reminded not that we are women with special disadvantages, but that we are people with the same needs as everybody else.

Who pulls the Chancellor's strings?

The real puppetmasters behind today's Budget are hidden in the Treasury, says Anatole Kaletsky

If today's Budget proves a damp squib, as now seems all too likely, the government will probably lose the general election. In that case, the stewardship of the Treasury by Norman Lamont, John Major and Nigel Lawson will go down in history as the most remarkable episode of economic and political mismanagement since the second world war. It is still possible, however, that the Budget will help to win the election, with long-term promises of lower taxes, new saving schemes and help for industry and homeowners. If so, Mr Lamont will be hailed as a brilliant Chancellor and saviour of the Conservative party.

One thing is certain. The process of choosing scapegoats or of deflation will be completely unfair. For what has been truly remarkable about the five years of economic management since the 1987 election has not been the Lawson-Major-Lamont record of running the Treasury, but the Treasury's record of running Messrs Lawson, Major and Lamont.

The Treasury has had a long history of discreetly dominating British governments, stretching back even before Gladstone invented the theatre of the Budget speech (it was he who created the illusion that the Treasury is run by politicians rather than civil servants). Rarely, however, have individual mandarins enjoyed as much influence as in the past five years. If responsibility is to be apportioned for the management of the economy by Mrs Thatcher and John Major's governments, then Sir Terence Burns, the chief economic adviser from 1979 to 1991 and permanent secretary, since then, must take the lion's share of the praise or blame.

"There was only one person in the world whose opinion Lawson cared about: Terence Burns," says a top government official, who watched helplessly in 1988 as Nigel Lawson cut interest rates and then unleashed his tax cuts

on the overheating economy, casually ignoring all warnings from inside and outside the government. In particular, it was Sir Terry who devised a long series of arguments to justify Mr Lawson's abandonment of successive monetary and fiscal targets. Above all, he reassured Mr Lawson (and subsequently his two successors) that the Chancellor's sole macroeconomic duty was to control inflation, and that this could be achieved most effectively and least painfully by attaching the British economy to a kind of auto-pilot, culminating in Britain's membership of the ERM.

Although the precise policies recommended by Sir Terry varied widely during the Lawson period, one theme ran through them all. As one of Mr Lawson's close confidantes during this period notes, "He told the Chancellor what he wanted to hear. Whatever Nigel was bent on doing, Terry would find an intellectual justification."

Ironically it was not until the collapse of the Lawson boom that Sir Terry's power peaked. Once Mr Lawson was replaced as Chancellor by Mr Major, the Treasury's role was transformed. Instead of finding justifications for Mr Lawson's preconceived ideas and backing him in his disputes with Mrs Thatcher at Number 10, the mandarins now worked for a man who had few detailed notions of his own about running the economy, but who enjoyed strong support from the prime minister, if only because he could not afford to lose another Chancellor. Sir Terry also enjoyed an excellent personal rapport with Mr Major, sharing not only his hatred of snobbery and unpretentious manners, but also his passion for sport.

From October 1989 onwards, the power of the Treasury mandarins waxed steadily as they manoeuvred the Chancellor into ever-stronger commitments to ERM membership and finally achieved their goal of pushing Mrs Thatcher into the ERM in October



Illusionist: Gladstone invented the Budget speech, but real power lies with civil servants

1990. This commitment might have seemed to be Sir Terry's apotheosis, but with Mr Major's elevation to prime minister a month later, his stature grew to a previously undreamt-of degree.

In Norman Lamont, the Treasury now had a boss politically much weaker than Mr Major, while Sir Terry had a direct line to Number 10. After his appointment as permanent secretary, Sir

Terry imported Alan Budd, formerly his closest colleague at London Business School, to be the new economic adviser, while Mr Lamont appointed Bill Robinson, another former LBS col-

league, as his political adviser (in theory his chief source of independent economic views).

The grim story of Mr Lamont's tenure as Chancellor is too familiar to need repetition. Suffice it to say that Treasury's hand has been visible behind the key economic and political developments of the past 18 months: the over-optimistic economic forecasts throughout the recession, the painfully slow reductions in interest rates, the blows to the housing and car industries in the 1990 budget, the failure to cut interest rates last summer when the pound was riding high in the ERM. Even the decision not to call a general election last autumn was heavily influenced by the Treasury's confident forecasts of an economic recovery before Christmas.

Which brings us back to the pre-election Budget. When the recession deepened unexpectedly in the winter, there was still time for the Chancellor to restore confidence before the election. Even if he could not cut interest rates, he could have brought forward help for investment, the car industry and housing, instead of waiting for today's Budget. He could even have brought forward the Budget or promised in advance to cut taxes so as to boost confidence. If the prime minister had put off the election until July, voters might well have seen the benefits of such measures before polling day. By last October, however, the Treasury had convinced the Chancellor and prime minister that it was already too late to stimulate the economy, either through tax-cuts or lower interest rates before polling day.

As a result, the Chancellor allowed himself to appear impotent in the face of recession. The prime minister boxed himself into an April election. And the Budget presented this afternoon will have no more significance than any other wish-list from the Conservative manifesto. Judging by the opinion polls, it may even have less chance of enactment than Labour's alternative budget which will be presented by John Smith next week. If so, Sir Terry will be on hand to do Mr Smith's bidding from April 10.

...and moreover

CRAIG BROWN

Nostalgia is a mad dog on a lead, forever lugging one back to mooks one deserted long ago. With the election approaching, I am feeling the tug.

Five years ago, I was *The Times'* election sketchwriter. At the time, I was in a frenzy of panic, mainly over travel arrangements, zipping from Cyril Smith in Rochdale one day to Roy Jenkins in Glasgow the next, and then to Belfast for Ian Paisley in the morning and Gerry Adams in the afternoon and on to Leeds the next day for Denis Healey. It was my first and only experience of proper, or at least semi-proper reporting. I came away feeling that all news reports should be followed in italics by a full description of the difficulties of the job in hand: "(The above item was written in half an hour on a railway platform while the reporter was surrounded by three drunks, 50irate commutes and a Salvation Army Band. It was phoned from a call-box while a queue of ten stamped its feet. The copywriter didn't laugh once, interrupting only to say 'Is there much more of this? when there were still 15 paragraphs to go.)"

But panic is not an emotion that lodges long in the memory. It knows to disguise itself as excitement, in the hope of being revived by nostalgia. I now find myself yearning to watch again as the politicians perform their loopy jigs for the indifferent crowds, as their major pronouncements and outright condemnations are all forced to make

way for complaints about dog messes on the pavement.

I remember going around Chesterfield with Tony Benn for an afternoon during the last election. He was as keen as mustard to talk to his constituents about the future of the NHS and disinvestment, but the longest conversation he had was with a woman who was distressed by a small amount of grass growing between the paving stones outside her house. "I could easily take a hummer," she argued. Mr Benn puffed on his pipe, jangled the change in his pocket, looked hard at the nits and said, "I wonder if weedkiller might do the trick?" But the lady wasn't to be bought off so easily: she had already tried Domestos. She said, and it hadn't done any good at all. Polite to the end, Mr Benn said that he believed that these days there were liquids designed specifically for killing weeds rather than just household germs, and perhaps she could give one of them a go.

All afternoon, he wanted to tackle world issues, but everyone else dwelt upon local irritations. The best he could hope for was a call for the revival of capital punishment. But he is an optimist. At the end of the afternoon, when I asked him what he was delighted that so many people came up to me and said, "Isn't there a chance of peace in the Gorbachev disarmament proposals?" Yet I had been with him all the time, and I hadn't heard anyone say anything like that. It is this disparity

between the lofty notions of politicians and the niggling grumbles of their constituents that makes elections so comical.

Some commentators view the advent of the "photo opportunity" as an indication that politicians are calling the tune. But anyone who watched Mrs Thatcher in 1987 as she struggled to stay smiling while watching six forklift trucks pirouette lasciviously to a Strauss waltz will know otherwise. The photo op has become a Frankenstein's monster, forcing its creators into ever more unnatural positions to amuse the public.

One thing that surprised me during the last election was the complete indifference of most people in the street towards the presence of even very famous politicians, unless they were performing tricks. Most journalists, including me, get quite a kick from rubbing shoulders with cabinet ministers and party leaders, but the same is not true of the public. I have watched in amazement as passers-by have darted into doorways to avoid the touch of the outstretched hand of Michael Heseltine, and I have stood in the pouring rain outside a Glasgow supermarket with Roy Jenkins as he struggled to buttonhole anyone at all for a few words. After a month of this, Jenkins' only reward was to lose his seat. And perhaps this is what makes me yearn to cover another campaign: however irksome it is for the journalist, the utter misery it holds for the politician is a joy to behold.

Basement briefs

THE secrets of the Chancellor's budget speech are not quite so secret after all. By the time Norman Lamont stands up to deliver his speech this afternoon, more than 40 people will have already read the full contents of the Chancellor's battered briefcase.

Lamont finished work on the final draft in the Treasury early yesterday evening, after which it was taken for security to the Treasury's own rudimentary printer in the basement, rather than HMSO's more sophisticated presses. Overnight, 1,100 copies were run off, to be distributed the minute the Chancellor sits down.

Copies of the speech remained under lock and key at the Treasury last night, and will not travel the short distance to the Commons under the "strict guardianship" of civil servants until just before Lamont stands up. Advance copies were given to the cabinet in time for its meeting this morning. But by the time other aides, civil servants, private secretaries and the printers themselves have read the speech, the number begins to approach the half-century.

Much to the irritation of MPs, who have first to wait until Lamont has sat down and then to queue for their copies, the press corps at the Commons will receive the speech on a page by page basis while the Chancellor is on his feet. The moment Lamont finishes, a hazard of leather-clad motorcycle dispatch riders will roar off from the Treasury to various City firms with verbatim transcripts.

The Treasury's own printer has

saved the Chancellor some embarrassment. Even while Lamont is speaking, the HMSO printing presses deep in the bowels of the Commons should be running off

thousands of explanatory leaflets for the general public, but yesterday, by coincidence, HMSO civil servants began industrial action in protest against a 4.7 per cent pay offer. Eddie Spence, the union spokesman, says: "Without our goodwill, the Budget material will not go out on time. Our goodwill has been withdrawn."

Now we know why British Telecom hired Maureen Lipman to rabbit away in its Beattie adverts: she is a real-life telephone addict. The star of the long-running series of adverts for a near-monopoly admits that she has no fewer than 12 telephones dotted around her own house. She even has one of Giles Gilbert Scott's famous red kiosks at the bottom of the garden.

Jug jug to dirty ears

THAT other Stormin' Norman, the one who saw off the Iraqis, appears to have met his match in the Potties. General Schwarzkopf has failed to prevent a Stoke firm manufacturing a Toby jug bearing his features. If the jugs were not withdrawn, his lawyers threatened, hostilities would commence. Undaunted, Kevin Pearson, the manufacturer, fired back a Scud of his own. "We told him that we had been making Toby

jugs for 250 years. We have made mugs of generals going back to Waterloo and have even made one of General Patton. We agreed to stop sales in America, but said we would carry on selling the jug in Britain." Schwarzkopf agreed to the peace terms, and declared a ceasefire, although Toby jugs continue to penetrate deep behind enemy lines.

Sacks race

THE CHIEF RABBI, Dr Jonathan Sacks, has taken to pounding the streets every morning before he starts work. There is only one problem: while the young-at-heart 44-year-old burns up the streets, his burly bodyguard, eight years his junior, cannot stand the pace.

Sacks, who has placed on his desk a sign saying "Daily jogging leads to positive thinking and goal achievement"; proudly manages three miles every morning without breaking into a sweat. His bodyguard is struggling to keep up with his charge as he puffs and pants several yards behind. He has now been sent on a fitness

course by his boss, who has become known among his admiring staff as the Rapid Rabbi.

April 9, it seems, is a big day not only for John Major but for his wife, Norma. It will be 22 years to the day since the pair met for the first time on GLC polling day in the Toy office in Brixton Road. "I shouldn't think either of them even remembers," says Peter Golds, who as secretary of Brixton's Young Tories introduced them. For the record, the Tories retained control of the GLC, but with a greatly reduced majority.

Infantile correctness
DOES the Commonwealth still matter, its citizens around the world asked yesterday? At London's Commonwealth Institute, more than a thousand pre-pubescent members of the Queen's dominions, territories and protectorates, who had gathered to mark Commonwealth Day, were unsure. Indeed, harmony of nations was hardly the order of the day, as a potentially nasty scene developed between Her Majesty's young and loyal subjects and a group of visiting American children. "Are you coming back to the Commonwealth?" Stephen Cox, the institute's new director, jokingly asked the American party.

That was the cue for politically correct British children, all under 11, to stage their protest. Every time the American kids appeared with their pictures of Columbus, the mother country's rising generation decided to boo heartily. "Five hundred years of exploration, five hundred years of exploitation," rapped the kids, in sympathy with the race whom we used to call Indians but who are now known as native Americans. Someone must have put them up to it. No one yesterday was owning up.



Economic ordeal for India

Rao survives reform test

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIA'S minority government survived its first big parliamentary test yesterday as it promised to press ahead with the most far-reaching economic reforms since independence. Even in its own camp there is nervousness that the government is burying socialism so hastily.

A challenge by opposition parties provided a sharp reminder that the government could be brought down at any time. In the end, backed by small parties and independents, it won a comfortable majority in the Lok Sabha (lower house). The victory had been carefully worked out in advance by its opponents, who were anxious to avoid forcing the country into another general election.

But the challenge has

heightened political uncertainty, which could undermine the immediate impact of the reforms, designed to encourage international investment and free India from economic isolation. P.V. Narasimha Rao, the prime minister, had warned members that he would resign if he lost the vote.

While that would not necessarily have precipitated an election, it would have certainly shattered investors' confidence. Mr Rao expressed exasperation that "a few seats here or there" could determine his survival. Such tension was not good for India's image abroad.

The vote was in response to President Venkataraman's address, normally a routine affair setting out the government's programme for the coming parliamentary session. The right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party, the biggest opposition group, said it voted against the Congress (I) government over its failure to control prices and unemployment. Left-of-centre parties said they were protesting about the ideological shift in Indian policy.

The real aim of both groups was to distance themselves publicly from unpopular reforms that most of them privately admit are unavoidable. Economic analysts say it could take three years for the benefits to be felt, but poverty has already started to increase, leading to political unrest in many states.

Hopes of an early end to the country's agony faded last week after shelling, in defiance of a UN-brokered ceasefire, prevented a ship from docking with war-ravaged Mogadishu's first large consignment of food aid in months.

But relief officials said the fighting had subsided at the weekend. UN officials suggested that the ceasefire agreement signed last week by Mogadishu's two warlords was taking effect, but sporadic small-arms fire continued.

Somalia's women call for peace

FROM APP
IN NAIROBI

ABOUT 100,000 women and children held a peace march during a weekend lull in fighting in Mogadishu as the United Nations Security Council prepared this week to discuss the conflict in Somalia. UN officials said here yesterday.

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But relief officials said the fighting had subsided at the weekend. UN officials suggested that the ceasefire agreement signed last week by Mogadishu's two warlords was taking effect, but sporadic small-arms fire continued.



Winning team: a Sikh farmer whipping his pair of bullocks to victory in a traditional race in the Indian state of Punjab. The bullock contest is a highlight of the annual three-day "rural Olympics" held just before harvest-time in the small village of Kila Raipur

Peking joins the anti-nuclear pact

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

CHINA formally acceded to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty yesterday. Qian Qichen, the foreign minister, handed over the articles of accession to John Major at talks in Downing Street and promised to work for nuclear disarmament and prevent the spread of nuclear weapons.

Mr Qian, visiting London for talks on Hong Kong and world affairs, said the move was a "major step" towards the prohibition and destruction of nuclear weapons. His talks with Mr Major and Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, also covered the work of the joint liaison group in Hong Kong and the colony's new airport. Mr Major and Mr Hurd also raised human rights in China with Mr Qian, who leaves for Germany today.

China, the last big power not to sign the treaty, had come under pressure to do so from the United Nations and

Waiter gets tip from the top

A Pensacola waiter who served President Bush and his wife, Barbara, has received a belated but generous tip.

The Bushes ate at Stopeles seafood and steak restaurant during a campaign stop. The restaurant picked up the bill for their food, and the president left without tipping waiter Tracy Yancey, the *Pensacola News Journal* reported. After learning of his omission, Mr Bush had Secret Service agents deliver the tip with handwritten notes to the restaurant's owners. Co-owner Gae P. Silivos wouldn't say how much was sent. "It was generous," Mr Silivos said.

George Cole, the star of *Minder* who likes to give the impression that there

are no flies on him, has had to eat his words while filming in outback Australia. The actor has been annoyed by flies that he has vowed never to return. "It's my first time here and my last because of the flies," he said while shooting a scene near Broken Hill in New South Wales.

The Bishop of Manchester, the Rt Rev Stanley Booth-Clibborn, aged 67, suffered a slight stroke after a heart bypass operation three days ago, according to a church spokesman yesterday. Wythenshawe hospital described the bishop's condition as "stable". He is due to retire in November.

Poll defeat weakens Miyazawa

Tokyo: The ruling Liberal Democratic party's defeat by the Japan Trade Union Confederation (Rengo-Kai) in a by-election in Miyagi prefecture on Sunday has dealt a severe blow to the shaky administration of Kiichi Miyazawa, the prime minister (Joanna Pittman writes). A humiliating defeat for the party in the important upper house election in July now seems likely.

Mr Miyazawa has been embroiled in a tangle of corruption scandals since he took office last November.

Township toll rises to 30

Johannesburg: Four more people were killed in fighting between blacks in Alexandra township, Johannesburg, taking the death toll to at least 30 in three days.

Tension has been high since two people were shot at an Inkatha Freedom party funeral on Saturday. Seven blacks died in Malagazi near Durban, where virtual civil war between Inkatha and African National Congress supporters started seven years ago. (Reuters)

Sleep of death

Bangkok: Survivors of a ferry disaster in which 89 people died claim that a sleepy helmsman failed to hear warning hoots from a giant oil tanker seconds before it sliced through the cramped passenger vessel. (Reuters)

Timor blockade

Jakarta: Indonesia mobilised nine frigates in the Timor Sea to intercept a Portuguese peace boat crewed by activists wanting to lay wreaths in a Dili cemetery to commemorate killings there by Indonesian troops. (AP)

Unhappy hour

Wellington: Live goldfish cocktails at £3 have caused a furore in New Zealand. The Route 66 bar here has sold more than 100 "Goldfish Laybacks" — tequila, lemon juice and a small Chinese carp — since Friday. (Reuters)

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AID FOR MAXWELL'S VICTIMS

Frauds, like accidents, will always happen. When they do, two questions fail to be answered. What should be done to minimise the chance of them happening again? And what if anything should be done to help their victims?

Yesterday's report from the Commons all-party social security select committee into pension funds in the wake of the Maxwell debacle is more successful in answering the first than the second of these questions. Its plan to fill the legal vacuum exposed by Mr Maxwell's fraud must be picked up by the next government of whatever colour. But as for compensating the Maxwell losers, the report refuses to say whether or not the government should pay.

The committee reveals little new about the shortcomings of the regulation of company pension schemes. Pension funds have been used to keep up the share price of parent companies, a loophole only partly blocked by new government regulation limiting future investment in related companies to 5 per cent of their assets. Trustees' responsibilities have been ill defined and their powers limited. Trust law is an outdated concept for the regulation of wealth on this scale.

The way the Investments Management Regulatory Organisation (Imro) has exercised its powers has been "completely inadequate". As the committee acidly observes: "Ponius Pilate would have blushed at the spectacle of so many witnesses washing their hands in public before the committee of their responsibilities in this affair." These are sensible though not original criticisms. The committee advocates a rapid official enquiry to recommend new laws.

However swift such an enquiry it will do nothing to help Mr Maxwell's pensioners. The 8,000 pensioners who worked for companies outside Mirror Group Newspapers will receive no more than the minimum pension guaranteed by the state. Mirror Group Newspapers recognises its responsibility to pay its existing and future pensioners, though the black hole in its funds blights the prospect of finding a

suitable buyer for the company. The committee's answer is for the incoming government to put "maximum moral, political and legal pressure" on those who failed in their regulatory duties to make up the shortfall. Auditors, Mr Maxwell's financial advisers and the banks who lent to him so freely would all, on this basis, be pressed by the government to pay up.

This is an appealing suggestion; but it suffers from three serious defects. First, some of those most seriously at fault, including Imro, could not afford to make realistic contributions. Second, the moral, political and legal pressure would be coming from a government whose failure to establish a proper system for the regulation of pension funds is largely responsible for the mess. Third, a protracted squabble would be in prospect as to degrees of culpability and appropriate penalties, during which the pensioners would get nothing.

The bullet has to be bitten. In the case of the Barlow Clowes affair, the government compensated some losers even though, in their greed for high returns, those investors were in part responsible for their fate. In the Maxwell affair, it would be quite unjust to blame the pensioners, who had no choice but to invest in Mr Maxwell's scheme. They are victims of an accident rather than an error of speculation.

The question is, who should pay for the accident? The government is in some measure at fault for allowing that accident to take place, but it was a sin of omission. Lloyd's names might feel similarly neglected by government regulators. The most that can realistically be said is that, by government omission, the poor rather than the rich were hurt. If this constitutes a basis for Treasury intervention so be it, but it is a dangerous precedent to be contemplated only because the pensioners (unlike investors, say, in BCCI) had no choice where their money went. The best way forward is to proceed ad hoc for the government to initiate and contribute to a hardship fund to tide them over, until a longer term solution is available.

ITALY STARTS TO CRACK

Not since the communist challenge of the mid-1970s has the Italian political system faced an election with so much at stake. Most Italians are heartily sick of the revolving door governments in Rome, whose only constant is corruption, patronage, intrigue, cronyism and a byzantine legislative procedure. For years the country tolerated its chaotic public sector as a national joke, while big business and family entrepreneurs got on with making the country rich.

Now the joke has worn thin. The recession has hit the north, and the government, burdened with a public debt larger than Italy's gross domestic product, has neither the strength to take unpopular economic decisions, the will to clear up the Mezzogiorno, nor the foresight to prepare Italy for the cold douché of the 1992 single market. The Christian Democrats, who have since the war formed Europe's last single-party government in coalition with a permutation of smaller parties, have used the threat of communism to justify their permanent hold on power. That has collapsed along with Italy's once formidable communist party. Voters are now likely to turn against the Christian Democrats, their fickle government allies and the Party of the Democratic Left, the enfeebled successor to the communists.

The parties exploiting this massive electoral discontent are mostly on the right. The MSI, the neo-fascists, are likely to increase their strength on April 5, appealing especially to those who resent the presence of around a million immigrants, many illegal, from the Maghreb and black Africa. They have a stylish candidate in Alessandro Mussolini, the grand-daughter of *Il Duce*, but little else, beyond the racist rhetoric now found on the right all over Europe.

More formidable is the challenge from the Lega Nord, the association of northern "leagues" which wants greater regional autonomy from Rome and which embodies the northern resentment of the south and of the huge sums of money poured into the

depressed region. The Lega's supporters say the efficient Europe-oriented north is being pulled down by southern mafiosi, by taxes and inefficiency, by the failure of Rome to legislate a framework that would give scope to Italy's political and economic potential.

Their challenge is not simply that they promise a disciplined, efficient alternative in much the same way as Mussolini promised to make the trains run on time; it is that they are calling for far-reaching changes in the existing constitution, including the abolition of the upper house in parliament and its replacement by three regional senates to represent the north, centre and south. Such changes would certainly shake up the somnolent bureaucracy and could invigorate democracy throughout the country. The danger is that the leagues' appeal is entirely populist, based on bombastic rhetoric and simplistic solutions. The leagues deny that they are fascist, but they appeal to the same fears as fascism.

The challenge to Italy's body politic comes not just from fringe parties. It also comes from the Quirinale itself. President Cossiga, the volatile head of state, has tired of his figurehead role, and wants to stretch his constitutional authority to speed up reform. He believes that only a strengthened executive presidency will overcome party intrigues, and a referendum in the summer showed that most voters agree. But in championing reform he has run straight into the opposition of his former ally Giulio Andreotti, the prime minister and master manipulator whose power is entirely based on his ability to broker deals.

Their present feud now looks quixotically a product of Rome's politics. Voters wanting to register a protest at all this now have a bewildering array of 26 parties from which to choose, and among them the Lega Nord may win only around 10 per cent. Sadly, the result is likely to be further fragmentation: hardly a basis for a stable reforming government which Italy so badly needs.

HOLIDAY RELIEF

Travel can broaden the mind. It is certainly broadening the beams of aircraft and lengthening their hop. British Airways has announced that it is planning a three-deck, 600-seater aerial hotel, with exercise areas, self-service restaurants and business areas with flying fax. In addition, two new long-haul airliners are being launched in this otherwise unpromising year for British aviation.

Nor are the economies of scale of this travel gigantism confined to the air. On March 29 Majesty of the Seas, the largest passenger ship in the world, will call at Southampton en route for her maiden Caribbean cruise. Nearly 200,000 Britons went on such far-flung cruises last year. It is a booming business: in spite of the recession and unemployment, the great British foreign holiday continues to grow. The one growth area in aviation today is in long-haul travel, to destinations such as Phuket in Thailand, the Maldives, and Orlando, the headquarters of Floridian Disneyland — places beyond the range and often beyond the ken of previous generations of foreign trippers.

More than half of the charter aircraft engaged in this traffic are not designed for such long journeys, and have to make an expensive and tourist-unfriendly stop to refuel. Hence the debate is mainly whether the proposed new long-haul mass-carriers of holidaymakers should be all one-class, or should have the extra perks of a first-class section to attract businessmen on expenses.

In the arithmetic that counts, there are only two classes of travel — first class; and the one for British tourists off on package holiday. The world of travel is improving if it is beginning to separate the two classes. What the tourists want is guaranteed sun to bask in, copious alcohol and gambling of a simple-minded sort, some sea to dip in, and one-upmanship snags to flash around the office. With the possible exception of the drink, the businessman is looking for something more businesslike.

For modern tourists, the new long-haul airlines and cruises are meeting a market demand. For those who want that sort of thing, unlimited sun and fun should be available in the Sahara, the Indian Ocean, the Gambia and the littoral of Florida. It is a vast social improvement that many Western Europeans can now afford to go on their foreign holidays and fairly grand tours. And if these new forms of transport and packaging can give them what they want, what is the market exists to do, it will spread the burden of tourism more thinly. The whole Mediterranean shore may yet be saved from suffocation by long-haul airlines and gigantic cruise liners.

Already, the British shift to overseas holidaying has made old British tourist resorts such as Blackpool, Torquay and Ayr quite tolerable once more. Territories like Corfu and the Costa Brava, which used to be individual and interesting, can at last have their millions of mass tourists removed, and find their individuality again.

Arts funding: separating 'nationals' from the regions

From Lord Armstrong of Ilminster

Sir, In the face of such an impressive and powerfully expressed demonstration of unity by all the surviving chairmen of the Arts Council (letter, February 26) in defence of the "arm's-length principle", discretion might seem to be the better part of valour for the rest of us — even if there is the faintest murmur of "they would, wouldn't they?"

There is indeed much to be said for keeping as far out of politics as possible the business of taking decisions about the allocation of individual grants to publicly-funded bodies in the field of the performing arts. We do not apply the arm's-length principle to the national museums and galleries, and we are not on the whole much troubled with allegations of political interference in curatorial or museological policies; but the performing arts are arguably different. There is clearly greater scope for political interference in decisions about (for instance) what plays, or what sorts of plays, should or should not be put on in a subsidised theatre.

A politician who was tempted to engage in such a sort of direction or censorship would no doubt incur a great deal of vociferous criticism. Some politicians might not mind that too much; but one would think that a little reflection would convince most of them to prefer a system which removed from them both the temptation and the risk.

The Arts Council and the "arm's-length principle" serve that purpose; and the Arts Council has a role as an advocate for the performing arts as well as a distributor of public funds.

Editing on television

From Mr Paul Woolwich

Sir, The former Conservative minister, Christopher Chataway, was neither misled nor misrepresented by *This Week* during the making of our programme on political party funding (letter, March 7).

A month before the programme he was invited to be interviewed on the whole range of recommendations on electoral reform in the Hansard Society's report he chaired, including campaign donations.

During the course of research for *Who Pays the Piper?* we discovered the alleged undisclosed payments to the Conservative party by Poly Peck and decided to concentrate on a new set of defence ministers. It will be for them to correct the present donations.

In fact, Mr Chataway was fully aware that we were addressing the subject. Not only was he told, but he was also prepared to comment on the £400,000 payments. In an untranscribed section of his interview he described the donations as "very disturbing" and added:

It seems that large amounts of money were given to a political party and not disclosed by the company as it should have been. So I think this is another very good argument for requiring the political parties actually to disclose where major contributions come from.

Viewers will have been in no doubt that the programme addressed secret donations and not the argument that major parties ought not to take money from rich individuals" as Mr Chataway suggests.

It seems sad that Mr Chataway, a former TV journalist, now welcomes the demise of investigative programmes like *This Week*. It not only aired one of his and the Hansard Society's principal concerns but also exposed some uncomfortable truths.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL WOOLWICH, Editor,
This Week,
Thames Television plc,
306-316 Euston Road, NW1.
March 9.

Cyclists hit back

From Councillor Peter McGrath

Sir, To accuse many cyclists of "unwholesome self-righteousness" (leading article, March 5) because they wear crash helmets and anti-pollution masks is unfair: they are a direct response to the dangerous, polluted conditions that urban cyclists are forced to ride in. As for our "games of chicken", these are survival tactics needed to deal with erratic or bad drivers.

When I narrowly avoid being crushed by a car ("sorry, mate, I didn't see you"), or arrive at work dizzy and sick through the exhaust fumes I have inhaled, I don't feel unwholesomely self-righteous, I feel mad.

Yours faithfully,
PETER MCGRATH,
76 Portman Road, Liverpool L5.

Swinging movement

From Mr Charles J. M. Williams

Sir, Philip Howard reports ("Ging Gang Goody rap", February 26) that the scouting movement has written a rap in order to appear more "trendy" and appeal to Britain's more misguided youth.

The whole point of songs within the scouting movement is to rouse a feeling of comradeship and to help give the boys the secure feeling of being a member of the team. A rap is never going to rouse such feelings. May I suggest a much more plausible medium — the rugby or football song/chant.

Every Saturday tens of thousands of people sing/chant/shout "songs" at their respective football or rugby football grounds, managing to unite an audience of tremendous variety (including racial variety). With a subtle change of lyrics — most scouts are under the age of 15 — they can be

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

A borderline case for Europe

From Mr P. J. Woodman

Sir, If we are attempting the difficult task of defining Europe (leading article, March 3), then we have to determine our contexts. The boundaries may be geographical or they may be political, but the two are not the same.

In geographical terms, Europe has indeed traditionally been seen as stretching from the Atlantic to the Urals, though what one does in the south-east is more open to debate: here Western geographers have usually considered the Caucasian watershed to be the boundary, whereas Russian geographers have favoured the Manych-Gudilo depression to the north and thereby placed the entire Caucasus region in Asia.

Your reference to Ataturk notwithstanding, we should note that Turks take great pride in claiming that their country geographically belongs to two continents: west of the Bosphorus is Europe while east of it is Asia.

Yet clearly, in political contexts, countries cannot be split in this way. The Bosphorus cannot divide Turkey politically; nor can the Urals so divide Russia. So if Russia, Ukraine and certain of their neighbours wish to belong within a political Europe, then so be it. Such decisions will not of themselves mean that geographical Europe is suddenly obliged to extend to Vladivostok.

After all, Italy and Greece did not physically remove themselves to the North Atlantic littoral when they became members of Nato.

Yours faithfully,

P. J. WOODMAN

(Secretary)

Permanent Committee on Geographical Names for British Official Use,
c/o The Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore, SW7.

March 3.

Delors attack

From Lord Bruce of Donington

Sir, There would seem to be legitimate fears, shared by all political parties in the UK, that the European Commission's proposals for a greatly increased EC budget to meet the financial implications of the Maastricht Treaty may result in Britain's net contribution to Community funds increasing from £2.8 billion to £3.8 billion. Estimates in this connection have already been submitted by HM government.

It is therefore astonishing that the reaction (report, March 3) of M Delors, President of the Commission, to the presentation of HM government's views should be one of arrogant abuse.

Your report quotes him as saying that Mr Hurd's sums did not add up and the calculation could be done by any schoolchild coming out of primary school. "We could give it to English schoolchildren as an exercise". This makes it abundantly clear that he is an obstacle to any reasonable and meaningful discussion on this very important question.

The continued arrogation to himself, as a non-elected and well-paid international civil servant, of the unfettered right publicly to criticise individual ministers is surely by now a question of principle to be borne in mind when consideration is given to his reappointment.

Yours sincerely,

DONALD BRUCE,

House of Lords.

March 7.

Energy resources

From Mr Jeremy Hornsey

Sir, It is wrong to confine discussion about the run-down of the coal industry (letter, March 4) simply to coal as a fuel. I had the privilege of helping Lord Gormley with his autobiography, *Battered Cherub*, published in 1982, from which I quote: "When you make coke from coal, you get about 27 by-products, similar to those from oil-refining. The point about turning coal into oil is that you get these by-products from the process, too. So I forecast that by the start of the next century... coal will be regarded as such a valuable commodity that people will look askance at the idea of doing anything so crude as to burn [coal] in power stations. In fact, you can get these by-products from natural gas as well. An industrial society... needs these by-products... for producing everything from dyes to plastics. There's a very good case for saying that it's a criminal waste to burn either coal or natural gas, or oil."

Those who would run down the coal industry — please discuss.

Yours faithfully,

JEREMY HORNSBY,

55 de Beauvoir Road, N1.

Business letters, page 23

Down on the farm

From Mr Anthony Lowe

Sir, I was surprised and delighted to discover (leading article, February 27, "Caring for farmland") that the government paper *Action for the Countryside* envisages "a programme to enhance the abundance and distribution of scarce and vulnerable species".

Little did I imagine, when I first started in farming, that one day I would be described in these terms. I remain, Sir, your scarce and vulnerable servant.

ANTHONY LOWE,

Lind Calum Farm,

Lower Halstow,

Stellingbourne, Kent.

March 2.

OBITUARY

MENACHEM BEGIN

Menachem Begin, leader of the militant Zionist movement Irgun Zvai Leumi (1943-1945), founder of the Herut party, prime minister of Israel (1977-1983) and Nobel Peace Prize winner (1978), died in Jerusalem yesterday aged 78. He was born in Brest-Litovsk, Poland, on August 16, 1913.

From Soviet labour-camp inmate, militant Zionist — whose men blew up the King David Hotel in Jerusalem in July 1946 — to Nobel Peace Prize winner for the peace-treaty he signed between Israel and Egypt in 1979, Menachem Begin played a definitive role in the formative years of Jewish state and in the world events of his time. The massacre of 250 Arabs by his Irgun forces at the village of Deir Yassin in 1948 changed the demography of the newly partitioned Holy Land and the hanging by his men of two British sergeants was credited with doing more than anything else to break British determination to continue its role in Mandated Palestine. Later, he averted a civil war by belatedly accepting the authority of Israel's first prime minister, David Ben-Gurion, after the Irgun arms ship, *Altalena*, was blown-up by Israeli artillery off Tel Aviv (while he was aboard). He subsequently bowed



The soldier, 1942

to the democratic process; and after nearly 30 years running a tiny political grouping on the extreme right of the political spectrum won reward for his patience, gaining power in 1977 as prime minister. It was his unquestioned commitment to the widest perception of *Eretz Israel* (the land of Israel) that enabled Begin to carry all but the most uncompromising of his followers with him when in 1979 he relinquished Israel's vast tracts of conquered land in the Sinai and signed the Jewish state's first, and so far only, peace-treaty with a neighbouring country. But it was his lack of vision and weakening command that was primarily responsible for Israel's failure to develop and build upon that first peace. And then, in what proved to be the evening of his political career, he proved unable to restrain the adventurist policies of Ariel Sharon, his defence minister, and General Rafael Eitan, his chief of staff, in launching the full-scale invasion of Lebanon in 1982. This aggressive war led to the massacre by extremist Christians of hundreds of unarmed Palestinian refugees trapped in the camps at Sabra and Chatila; cost 650 Israeli lives and thousands of Lebanese ones; divided Israelis and lost the Jewish state much of the international sympathy it had gained over the previous 30 years.

Menachem Begin, who lost his parents and a brother in the Nazi holocaust, was driven by twin forces: an unwavering determination never again to see Jews betrayed to slaughter and a cast iron belief in their destiny to reclaim all their ancient homeland. "The world does not pity the slaughtered," he said. "It only respects those who fight."

A's unfailingly courteous in private as he could be, he was vituperative in public. Begin was a slight, fastidious individual with angular features and poor eyesight. He was also a stickler for protocol and, in contrast to most of his casually dressed countrymen, was seldom seen unless smartly dressed in a dark suit and tie. He came to symbolise for much of the world the hard and uncompromising face of Zionism, determined to ensure the security of the Jewish state in its historic or biblical frontiers and seemingly indifferent to any suffering that this might cause to non-Jews.

Begin was always a controversial figure both at home and abroad. Yet he had the statesmanship to make the necessary concessions for the peace treaty with Egypt and at the end of his career, in spite of the disarray in which he left the country, he was revered by many Israelis almost as a father figure. Even some of his opponents came to regard him as a restraining influence on the more violent nationalistic elements in Israeli society, though many argued that those elements had received fatal encouragement from his policies and speeches. Menachem Wolfowitz Begin was the son of a convinced Zionist and grew up in the turbulent and often anti-semitic

atmosphere of interwar Poland. He was educated first at a Mizrachi (religious Zionist) elementary school, later at a Polish government high school, and finally at Warsaw University where he took a degree in law, although he never practised it.

Throughout his life he was an Orthodox though not strictly observant Jew in the religious sense. He insisted on kosher food and refused to write or to use wheeled transport on Saturdays, but did not attend synagogue every day, or even every sabbath, and made no secret of the fact that he listened to the radio on the sabbath.

At the age of 15 he joined Betar, the Zionist youth movement founded by the "Revisionist" leader, Vladimir Ze'ev Jabotinsky (1880-1940), who insisted on the necessity of a Jewish state embracing both banks of the Jordan and on force as the only credible means to achieve this end. Begin became his most passionate disciple and this led to his first clash with the British in 1937 when he was imprisoned for leading a demonstration against the British embassy in Warsaw to protest at British policy in Palestine. Two years later he was appointed by Jabotinsky as head of Polish Betar, the largest section of the world movement.

After Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia had divided Poland between them in 1939, Begin was arrested by the Russians and sentenced to eight years' correctional labour as "an element dangerous to society". However, after three months in a labour-camp in the far north of Russia — an experience he later described in the book *White Nights* — he was released

The British put a £10,000 price on Begin's head

under the Stalin-Sikorski agreement of 1941 and allowed to join the Polish army formed under General Anders and sent by the Allies to the Near East. In 1942 his unit was posted to Transjordan — in Begin's eyes part of *Eretz Israel*. "The military convoy stopped," he wrote later in his book *The Revolt*. "We rested, I left the automobile, waded a little way into the grass, and drank in the colour of my homeland."

Begin's sense of honour would not allow him to desert even the strongly anti-Semitic Polish army. Although working in Jerusalem from May 1942, he was released from the army — ostensibly for propaganda work in the United States — only in late 1943. Soon afterwards he assumed command of the Irgun Zvai Leumi (National Military Organisation) — the Revisionist underground — and on February 1, 1944, he proclaimed its revolt against British rule.

As long as the world war lasted, the Irgun did not attack British military installations — only police stations and government offices. To minimise British casualties, advance warnings were given wherever possible so that civilians could be evacuated. Even so, the revolt was very unpopular within the Jewish community, and for a time the recognised Zionist leadership under Ben-Gurion co-operated with the British against it.

Once the war in Europe ended, things changed. The Haganah — the mainstream Jewish defence force — proposed a joint resistance campaign against British rule, and Begin accepted. This lasted until July 1946, when the Irgun blew up the King David hotel in Jerusalem, the headquarters of British administration, killing 91 people including 28 British, 41



The national leader: prime minister of Israel, 1977-83

Jews with a heavy cane, a British major and three NCOs were captured and flogged; and on July 30, 1947 two British sergeants were formally hanged. The British put a £10,000 price on Begin's head, describing him as an "irreversible fanatic thirsting for personal power," but were never able to capture him.

After the hanging of the British sergeants Begin turned his attention to the danger of Arab resistance to the creation of the Jewish state. His greatest "achievement" on this front was the massacre of Arab villagers at Deir Yassin, on the outskirts of Jerusalem, on April 9, 1948. Although he always denied that such a massacre had taken place (in spite of detailed eye-witness accounts, mostly from Jews) Begin did not scruple to claim the credit for its effect: the panic flight of most of the Arab population from what was to become Israeli territory.

On the proclamation of the state of Israel in May 1948 Begin emerged from the underground and signed an agreement with the provisional government, providing for the merger of the Irgun into the national army. However, Begin regarded this agreement as valid only within the existing boundaries of the state. He thus considered himself free to continue fighting independently "to put the nation in command of the whole country".

In June the *Altalena*, a former US tank transport, arrived off the Israeli coast with a cargo of arms for the Irgun, violating a UN-monitored truce between Israel and the Arabs. Ben-Gurion, as prime minister, took this as a direct challenge to the new state's authority. The ship, with Begin on board, was shelled by the Israeli army on June 22 in full view of Tel Aviv beach. Fourteen Irgun fighters, including Begin's boyhood friend Avraham Stavsky, had been killed and 69 wounded before the ship surrendered. Begin said later there had been only two occasions he had wept. On the night the state was proclaimed and the night the *Altalena* was fired upon, he left the ship to sound out Dayan at a secret meeting in Morocco, astonished the world by announcing his willingness to come to Jerusalem. Begin knew how to respond. He promptly declared that the Egyptian president would be welcome, and clearly relished every minute of his role as host in what must have been the most intensively publicised state visit in world history.

His response to Sadat's gesture was, however, one of courtesy rather than warmth. He took a month to formulate his substantive counter-proposals, which he put to Sadat at a second meeting, at Ismailia in Egypt, on Christmas Day 1977: Israel would withdraw from Sinai by stages, but the Jewish settlements in the Rafah salient would stay and would still be defended by the Israeli army. In the West Bank and Gaza the Arab population would have "administrative autonomy" but Israel would keep control of security and public order and Israeli citizens would retain the right to settle. His authority, combined with the support of a large majority in the country, was sufficient to force it through and to enable the final, most controversial phase of withdrawal from Sinai three years later.

The West Bank autonomy plan, by contrast, was left to witter on the vine, despite sporadic and desultory negotiations between Israel and Egypt in which neither Jordan nor any representative Palestinians were prepared to join. For this outcome Begin must take much of the responsibility since he insisted on defining autonomy as restrictively as possible, allowed Jewish settlement in the West Bank and Gaza to proceed, with government funds, at an accelerated pace and made it clear that Israel had no intention of withdrawing at the end of the five-year period.

By mid-1980 Begin had lost both his foreign and his defence ministers — Dayan and Weizman, the two most independent-minded members of the government and the most committed to the idea of broadening the peace by giving real autonomy to the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza. Begin

Golda Meir retired exhausted in the spring of 1974. In the three years that followed it became apparent that the Labour Party, after a century of a century in power, had lost both its grip and its sense of direction. Plagued by a succession of corruption scandals, it appeared to move and more Israelis, especially those of North African or Asian origin (by now roughly half the population), as the vehicle of a smug and patronising aristocracy, almost exclusively European and based on the kibbutzim and the nationalised industries. Begin, although European himself, never talked down to the "oriental" Jews and so came to be seen by many of them as a champion of the underdog against the self-serving governing clique. His intransigent nationalism also appealed to most of them.

In the elections of 1977, Yitzhak Rabin was forced to renounce the leadership of the Labour Party after the disclosure of financial irregularities involving his wife and the Likud campaign, ably organised by the former air force hero Ezer Weizmann, swept Begin to victory in spite of the panic flight of most of the Arab population from what was to become Israeli territory.

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gave the foreign ministry to Yitzhak Shamir, the former leader of the Stern Gang, an extremist off-shoot of the Irgun and by that time a hardline Herut member who had refused to support the Camp David accords. He kept the defence portfolio in his own hands. The "peace process" marked time and public attention was diverted to economic policy where things were not going well as Begin failed to back the finance minister, Yigal Hurwitz, against other members of the cabinet.

To many observers the prime minister appeared to be fading fast and heading for certain defeat in the 1981 general election. But the approach of another election campaign seemed to stimulate a new flow of adrenaline. In January 1980 Hurwitz resigned and was replaced by Yoram Aridor, whose extravagant expansionary policies though real, if short-lived, benefits to many Israelis. Begin for his part rallied support with a furiously nationalistic campaign in the course of which he publicly abused the leaders of France and West Germany, talked himself to the brink of war with Syria over the deployment of missiles in Lebanon's Bekaa valley, and sent Israeli bombers to destroy a nuclear reactor in Iraq.

The election was only just

re-elected: in alliance with the religious parties, Likud had an overall majority of two. But it was enough. Ariel Sharon, who as agriculture minister had been the driving force of Jewish settlement in the occupied territories, now became defence minister and, with the chief of staff, General Rafael Eitan, began planning a new war in Lebanon aimed at demolishing the Palestine Liberation Organisation — the main focus of resistance in the occupied territories.

But Jordan had not been consulted about this, and in fact refused to take part. Carter believed that he had secured Begin's agreement to freeze Israeli settlement activity during the transitional period. It turned out, however, that Begin had only promised a moratorium of three months while the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty was being finalised.

Despite an atmosphere soured by this misunderstanding, the Camp David accords were widely hailed as a major breakthrough (or, among Arab nationalists, as a sell-out) and the following month Begin and Sadat were jointly awarded the Nobel peace prize.

The haggling continued

had actually promised to make his home after retirement.

Sadat on his side accepted the proposal for autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza, but only as a five-year transitional solution. This left the door theoretically open for ultimate Israeli withdrawal, but also enabled Begin to avoid relinquishing Israel's claim to sovereignty.

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negotiated between Israel, Egypt and Jordan, with possible Palestinian participation in the Egyptian and Jordanian delegations.

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Sadat on his side accepted the proposal for autonomy

CHRIS HARRIS

£1 billion for road building this year

By MICHAEL DYNES
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

MORE than £1 billion will be spent on expanding and maintaining Britain's roads in the next financial year. Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary, said yesterday. Work will begin on 24 new schemes, including 11 bypasses and relief roads, at an estimated cost of £760 million. In addition, £480 million has been earmarked for road and bridge maintenance, the highest amount so far spent on repairs.

The announcement, which gave the final approval for the missing section of the M3 through Twyford Down in Hampshire, was accompanied by renewed protests from Friends of the Earth campaigners calling for the last stretch to be in a tunnel instead of a cutting. Four protesters chained themselves across the entrance of the site after workmen began to mark out the cutting.

The new schemes include widening sections of the M1, M4, M6, M25 and M56, as part of a £5 billion motorway widening initiative to increase the capacity of the motorway network and relieve congestion. More than 60 road schemes are now under construction, at an estimated cost of £1.3 billion, as part of the present £20 billion programme over ten years.

Road schemes 1992-3

- M1 junction 9-10 (north-bound) widening
- M3 Bar End-Compton (Twyford Down)
- M4 junction 4B widening
- M4 junction 10-11 crossing approach roads
- M5 junction 18 improvement-Avonmouth relief road
- M6 junction 20-21A widening
- M6 junction 15-16 widening
- M56 (junction 4B-6 widening)
- M66 Dinton-Middleton
- A5 Pasyll, Two Gates & Wrexham bypass
- A11 Bescot, Wymondham
- A1 Four Wantways-Newmarket
- A12 Hackney-M11 (Contract 1A)
- A12 Hackney-M11 (Contract 4)
- A111 Banham bypass
- A15 Easingwold bypass
- A23 Handcross-Pease Pottage
- A27 Brighton bypass (Contract 4)
- A46 Leicester Western bypass
- A49 Onbury-Stokesay
- A406 cabling and communications
- A54 Hockley, Sutton & Foston bypass
- Kent corridor variable message signs



Peace restored: Claire Hyde, who works for the Festival Hall, returning the white Carrara marble dove to the hands of the bronze girl in the recast Minar Sumar sculpture. The Link. The original of this work was

exhibited first at Covent Garden in the Royal Society of British Sculptors open air event before being placed beside County Hall to mark the world year for peace in 1983. It was stolen from its South

Bank site in London in 1990 and thought to have been smuggled out of the country to America; its replacement, recommissioned by the London Residential Body, will be situated securely inside the Queen Elizabeth Hall. The life-size statue, which was created to represent the link between the past and the future and to symbolise peace and hope, was unveiled yesterday by Timothy Rennell, the arts minister

Long-term view of Budget tax cuts

Continued from page 1

Labour's overhaul of its taxation and spending commitments began to emerge (Our Political Staff writes).

John Smith, the shadow chancellor, is expected to add substantially to the party's brief shopping list of firm spending pledges next week when he sets out how in government it would carve up the money that Mr Lamont "gives away" today in tax cuts.

The Times has learnt that Mr Smith has been holding informal discussions with shadow cabinet colleagues about earmarking some of the money for specific spending programmes.

The result could be that Labour's spokesmen will find themselves free to make fresh vote-catching commitments during the early days of the campaign.

Conservative MPs say privately that Mr Lamont has their lives in his hands. They accept that he needs to maintain the government's repu-

tation for prudence and that his room for manoeuvre is limited by the surge in public borrowing. Nevertheless they are looking to him to come up with a bold package that will hit people between the eyes and give the Tories the initiative for the electoral battle that begins immediately afterwards.

With all recent polls pointing to a hung parliament it emerged last night that in the event of an April 9 election MPs are expected to be recalled to Westminster on Wednesday, April 15, for the election of the new Speaker. That is the date that is likely to be included in the proclamation dissolving the present parliament.

The move means that in the event of a hung parliament negotiations will have to proceed speedily so that the new government is in place by that date.

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Rabbis and police formed a ring around the body, but their progress to the Mount of Olives was repeatedly slowed by mourners, some of them pushing up against cabinet ministers to get a last glimpse of Mr Begin.

As the convoy passed through the Arab Wadi Joz neighbourhood, Palestinians watched silently. Police manned checkpoints to bar Arab traffic, and maintained a highly visible presence in the area.

Mr Begin was buried alongside his wife, Aliza, who died in 1982. His grave is marked by a temporary card-board sign bearing his name.

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP
ey scorns higher
from Redland

THE TIMES TUESDAY MARCH 10 1992

BUSINESS NEWS 21

BSkyB achieves operating profit ahead of forecasts

BY MELINDA WITSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Sky Broadcasting, which has cost its shareholders more than £1.5 billion to set up, yesterday revealed that it had achieved a small operating profit almost a year ahead of its original forecasts.

But the six-channel satellite broadcaster is still burdened with £1.28 billion of debt owing to its shareholders. Weekly interest bills on this total £2.8 million, which is being rolled over.

BSkyB is this month making weekly operating profits of £100,000, compared with weekly losses of £10 million in November 1990, when Sky Television merged with British Satellite Broadcasting after a bitterly fought and

expensive battle to entice the public to buy their rival services.

Sam Chisholm, the chief executive, and Frank Baron, chairman of BSkyB and managing director of Pearson, refused to forecast when the station would become truly profitable by making more profit than it pays out in interest. Neither would they predict when BSkyB will have paid back its shareholders in full.

James Capel, however, has forecast that BSkyB will be repaying debt to its main shareholders — News International, which owns *The Times*, *Granada*, *Grangefield*, Pearson and *Chargrill*.

Richard Brooke, the director of treasury and planning, said new ten-year deals signed with all seven major Hollywood studios would be saving BSkyB \$100 million a year within five years. He said deals meant that all the top 50 UK box office hits in 1991 would premiere on The Movie Channel and Sky Movies.

Meanwhile, BSkyB is bidding in £3.8 million a week in subscription revenue plus another £1 million in advertising. Tony Vickers, group sales and marketing director, pointed to Sanchi's *Sanchi* figures that predict satellite will have 30 per cent of the British television advertising market by 2002, against ITV's 55 per cent. He said all the UK's major advertisers — Unilever, Procter & Gamble and Halifax — were now advertising on Sky, which is undercutting ITV by 20 per cent or rates.

BSkyB now reaches 2.9 million British homes, with 78,000 satellite dishes sold in February. Another 26,000 dishes were sold in the last week of February because of the popularity of the World Cup cricket.

Gary Davey, the deputy chief executive, said BSkyB now reaches 13 per cent of all British television homes, or 17 per cent of the population. The six channels also reach 21 per cent of 16-34 year olds, and 23 per cent of 4-15 year olds.

The results did not include any contribution from Dillon Read, the American investment bank in which Barings took a 40 per cent stake in November.

Peter Barling, chairman, said he hoped the two banks would develop new synergies of business together.

All ordinary shares in Barings are owned by the charitable Barings Foundation, which earned an unchanged £3 million dividend in addition to a donation of £2.55 million.

Investment arm steadies Barings

BY OUR BANKING CORRESPONDENT

BARINGS, the City's oldest merchant bank, held its pre-tax profits steady at £42.5 million last year, due to a record year in its investment management business.

The bank managed to avoid any bad debts for the second year in a row on its £1 billion loan book — in obvious contrast to the High Street clearing banks — due to careful control of credit quality.

Sales cut clothing retailers' margins

BY GILLIAN BOWORTH

JANUARY sales might have been good news for shoppers but they were a mixed blessing for clothing retailers, according to a new report on pricing by Verdict, the market research group.

On average, clothing retailers sacrificed a fifth of their gross margin in an effort to tempt customers through their doors during the sales. Verdict reports, however, that the sales boost was not enough to prevent a profit shortfall for some retailers.

"It is clear that the strategy of sacrificing margins for sales is not working," the report says.

On average, women's wear retailers offered discounts of 31 per cent of the original price on 30 per cent of the items in their ranges. Menswear retailers offered discounts averaging 29 per cent on 34 per cent of lines.

In volume terms, women's wear is likely to show a modest uplift over the same period last year. Menswear, on the other hand, is expected to be down a couple of percentage points.

Richards, the women's wear multiple that is part of Storehouse, was the chain which marked its prices down the most during the sales. Around 45 per cent of its lines were marked down by an average of 34 per cent. Evans, the Burton chain selling large sizes, marked down around 37 per cent of its lines by almost 40 per cent.

Verdict reports that Burton Group needs a substantial increase in market share to offset the price cuts at its various chains, which include Dorothy Perkins, Debenhams, Principles and Top Shop.

Among groups which Verdict believes managed their sales well are Littlewoods, Next and River Island. The impact of their sales on their margins was below the market average in each case.

Next, in particular, experienced a margin impact of only 4 per cent, compared with the average of 10 per cent. Gross margins before discounting are on average 50 per cent.

Cut in ECGD premium rates

A review of the Export Credits Guarantee Department's premium rates has produced substantial cuts on project business to certain markets, Tim Sainsbury, the trade minister said.

Premiums for some countries will go up, but reductions of between 20 to 40 per cent will apply for growing markets such as Hungary, Malaysia, Thailand, Mexico and Oman from April 6.

until the year 2000. Smith New Court, meanwhile, has forecast an operating profit of £49 million next year.

The debt is owed directly to News International, which controls 50 per cent, or to the banks of the original BSkyB shareholders, who guaranteed loans at the time of the merger.

Yesterday's figures, all on a weekly basis, show that overhead costs have been slashed from £6.5 million to £1.8 million. Staff has shrunk from more than 4,500 to just under 1,000. Programming costs were also cut drastically from £5.1 million to £2.9 million each week.

Richard Brooke, the director of treasury and planning, said new ten-year deals signed with all seven major Hollywood studios would be saving BSkyB \$100 million a year within five years. He said deals meant that all the top 50 UK box office hits in 1991 would premiere on The Movie Channel and Sky Movies.

Meanwhile, BSkyB is bidding in £3.8 million a week in subscription revenue plus another £1 million in advertising. Tony Vickers, group sales and marketing director, pointed to Sanchi's *Sanchi* figures that predict satellite will have 30 per cent of the British television advertising market by 2002, against ITV's 55 per cent. He said all the UK's major advertisers — Unilever, Procter & Gamble and Halifax — were now advertising on Sky, which is undercutting ITV by 20 per cent or rates.

BSkyB now reaches 2.9 million British homes, with 78,000 satellite dishes sold in February. Another 26,000 dishes were sold in the last week of February because of the popularity of the World Cup cricket.

Gary Davey, the deputy chief executive, said BSkyB now reaches 13 per cent of all British television homes, or 17 per cent of the population. The six channels also reach 21 per cent of 16-34 year olds, and 23 per cent of 4-15 year olds.

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Ransomes forced to raise borrowing



Payout passed: Bob Dodsworth, of Ransomes



Sitting pretty: Martin Jourdan, chairman, is confident house market prospects are starting to improve

Cornwell Parker rise hints at recovery

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

FURNITURE will top consumers' shopping lists once they have recovered the urge to buy, according to Martin Jourdan, chairman of Cornwell Parker, the Parker Knoll furniture and fabrics group. He said the company was already starting to see signs that the housing market is beginning to improve.

Interim profits rose 3.7 per cent in the six months to end-January, thanks partly to the elimination of borrowings and lower interest payments. Pre-tax profits rose to £3.7 million in the six months to end-January, against £3.59 million last time.

Turnover, which was affected by disposals and a decline in certain sales, slipped to £44.1 million down from £46.1 million. Mr Jourdan said: "There appear to be signs that the housing market is beginning to improve and that consumer expenditure is poised to grow again. There is certainly evidence to show that there is latent demand for furniture."

"If the outcome of the general election leads to a strengthening of confidence, we have the ability to turn any increase in demand into a further improvement in profit."

The interim at Cornwell Parker is lifted to 1.7p from 1.6p on earnings of 5.9p a share against 6.2p.

BY JONATHAN PRYNN

RANSOMES, the lawnmower maker, has fallen into losses, axed its dividend and been forced to ask shareholders for an increase in borrowing powers.

Operating profits fell from £17.9 million to £6.1 million as a result of recession and last year's dry summer, which restricted grass growth. After interest charges and £1.5 million of exceptional redundancy costs, the loss before tax for the year to end-December was £4.5 million, against a £9.1 million profit the year before.

The company, which passed its interim payout, said it would not be "prudent" to pay a final dividend now but dividends would be a priority "once recovery occurs". Ransomes, led by Bob Dodsworth, has not yet decided whether to pay a convertible

Decline in consumer credit suggests lack of confidence

BY COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

OFFICIAL figures showed a further fall in consumer credit in January, underlining that the personal sector, unsure about its economic prospects, still prefers to reduce debt rather than borrow more while real interest rates remain high.

The eve-of-Budget data, which cover credit advanced to consumers by finance houses, building societies and on bank credit cards, put new credit at a seasonally adjusted £3.9 billion in January, down from £4.07 billion in December.

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"If the outcome of the general election leads to a strengthening of confidence, we have the ability to turn any increase in demand into a further improvement in profit."

Neil MacKinnon, chief economist at Yamaichi International, saw a risk that any Budget giveaways might not be converted into higher con-

sumer spending. Instead, consumers might use the extra funds to repay debt or build up savings. However, Chris Dillow, economist at Nomura Research, argues that the figures had become less important as a guide to consumer confidence and spending. He believes those in work have no need to borrow and are using cash instead of credit for consumer purchases.

A revival in consumer confidence is seen as crucial to any substantial economic recovery. But the high level of borrowing in the consumer boom years of the late-Eighties has left a large debt overhang, likely to inhibit a rebound. In the three months to January, the amount consumers owed under credit agreements was reduced by £290 million compared with a fall of £210 million in the previous three months. New credit in the same period was £11.72 billion and £11.78 billion respectively.

Infotlink, Britain's largest independent credit information organisation, has meanwhile, detected signs of recovery in demand for consumer credit in the retail sector, which rose an annual 9.7 per cent in January after similar growth in November and December. The increases were fuelled by credit demand being virtually absent in the winter of 1990-1 when the Gulf conflict deepened recess-

Ofwat to receive extended powers

BY GRAHAM SEARLE EDITOR

IAN BYATT, director general of water services, is to be given statutory powers to back his recent moves to ensure that water companies separate non-utility businesses and finance them without any call on their main water and sewage functions. The companies will also be banned from subsidising their diversifications from their utility business.

Amendments to the Competition and Service (Utilities) bill, now being considered by the House of Lords, would oblige companies to keep separate accounts for non-regulated business and to trade at arm's length with their utility business. Mr Byatt has already made changes to water companies' licences to put these measures into effect but has little specific power to enforce separation short of revoking a licence.

Despite the imminent decision, it is still possible that the bill, which has all-party backing, will become law rather than falling automatically when parliament is dissolved.

New nationwide figures released by Ofwat show that the average household water bill for 1992-3 will rise 8.5 per cent to £81, and the average sewerage bill by 9.2 per cent to £88 in England and Wales after nearly all suppliers waived some of their permitted rises for the year ago in January.

Brian Bailey, Infotlink chairman, said the retail sector had shown the most encouraging indications of improving consumer confidence and spending, although the extension of the traditional New Year sales period may have contributed to the growth in demand.

He said further confirmation from the February data would be needed to make a more confident prediction.

Final results. There is an exceptional loss of £25,000, and an extraordinary debit of £1.15m. Turnover fell to £24.2m (£26.0m). Last time's profit was £881,000. The company expects turnover and profits to remain under pressure in the short term.

Turnover fell to 25.8m (£7.08m), Production reached record 3,000 barrels of oil per day, but revenue fell to £21.72 (£21.71) per barrel. Last time's total dividend: 7.3p. Comparative figures are restated. There is a £269,000 exceptional and £221,000 extraordinary debit.

Last time's profit was £21.71m. Last time's total dividend: 4.5p. There was an exceptional debit of £271,000.

Interim results. Gross rents increased to £7.63m (£7.12m). Satisfactory outcome is still anticipated for current year.

COMPANY BRIEFS

TODAY & CARLISLE

Pre-tax: £25,000 (£4.01m)

EPS: 4.58p (EP5: 17.85p)

Div: 3p, mkg 4.5p (7p)

HIGH POINT (Int)

Pre-tax: Loss £64,000

EPS: 1.04p (EP5: 11.19p)

Div: 1.3p (2.55p)

PICT PETROLEUM (Int)

Pre-tax: £21.11m (£23.13m)

EPS: 2.97p (10.88p)

Div: None

CALDERBURN (Fin)

Pre-tax: £3.04m (£5.45m)

EPS: 8.9p (13.9p)

Div: 4.9p, mkg 7.7p

FIFE INDMAR (Fin)

Pre-tax: £906,000

EPS: 5.77p (10.88p)

Div: 3.9, mkg 4.9p

MUNDLOW (A+I) GROUP

Pre-tax: 25.34m (£25.3m)

EPS: 3.81p (3.78p)

Div: 2.82p (2.585p)

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Sparks fly over nuclear power

Stephen Littlechild, the increasingly bristly and frustrated electricity regulator, having become fed up with PowerGen and National Power, has turned his ire on Nuclear Electric, the third big generating group. There is something faintly bizarre about suggesting that the state-owned company, which can only turn a profit thanks to a fossil fuel levy that raises the general price of electricity, is somehow sabotaging the competitive private market through its commercial policy by keeping contract prices up artificially.

Unlike the other big generators, Nuclear Electric can sell as much as it can produce through the pool, not least because its marginal cost, in contrast to total costs, are the lowest available and are suitable for base load. Not surprisingly, Nuclear Electric has no desire to retire old plant, since its output will be taken one way or another. Its simple aim is to increase output. Even the oldest Magnox stations will be kept going as long as safety regulators allow, since this spreads sunken overheads and puts off the potentially heavy costs of decommissioning. Concentration of effort has produced better results from several advanced gas-cooled reactors that have never neared planned capacity, helping to raise Nuclear Electric's share of the market from about 17 to nearer 20 per cent. Sizewell B is to come.

Yet the big users have become furious at Nuclear Electric's auctions of longer term contracts, rating the asking price too high. A second series of auctions started at the end of February was supposed to redress this by using a reducing reserve price to ensure that all offered contracts were taken. This looked promising but after much confusion, users rate the result a shambles, claiming the quoted prices are too high compared with the pool. Professor Littlechild evidently agrees, having concentrated his criticism on Nuclear Electric when presenting his annual report yesterday. One reason for the confusion may be that the pool price, which has been recovering smartly from last year's uneconomic levels, has suddenly relapsed under the weight of criticism.

If all the existing big generators can be accused individually of rigging the market and the new competitors think prices are still too low, the observer must surely conclude that the system, and particularly the relationship between contracts and the pool, is basically at fault.

State aid for R&D

Whichever party forms the government on April 10, its new supremos at Treasury and trade would do well to consider the burning issue raised by Rolls-Royce at the weekend of selective state aid for research and development. Compared with their EC counterparts, British firms do less well in the matter of research and development funding, especially indirect funding.

This has given rise in Rolls' case to the bizarre circumstance whereby a company starved by Britain of launch aid and other assistance found a splendid market at Airbus Industrie, a company devised to build a substantial world market for European aerospace companies on the basis of government support. Airbus has thrived mightily to the extent that it now challenges American supremacy in civil aircraft manufacture and has made life difficult for the smaller of the two American giants, McDonnell Douglas. The latest in a string of incursions into the American market was a \$600 million sale to Delta of Airbus A310-300s, an order for which Boeing had high hopes. Without Airbus, Europe would eventually be sidelined in many leading edge technologies.

In the wake of the Maxwell pension fund scandal, there is growing pressure for legal reform, Sean Hand reports

The failure of the current system of pensions regulation to prevent Robert Maxwell from stealing vast sums of money from the numerous pension funds of which he was a trustee, occurred at a formidably time in the electoral cycle. The current system of pension regulation in the United Kingdom is largely an historical accident. Successive Conservative and Labour governments have found the long-term nature of questions relating to pension provision too unpallatable to confront. Ours is a society that is interested in solutions rather than problems. Given that policy has developed on such a basis, it would be surprising if the law did not reflect similar principles.

The influence of Christianity on English law is nowhere more evident than in the law of trusts. These laws provide the framework for employer-sponsored pension schemes in Britain, as well as in America, Canada and Australia. At its root, trust law gave legal expression to notions of conscientious behaviour judged before the Chancellor's court. Almost all the medieval Chancellors were ecclesiastics. The principle was secularised during the 16th century. The "conscience" became the Conscience of the Queen, and the Chancellor was designated the Keeper of the Queen's Conscience. The expectation that the law should punish unconscionable behaviour is still close to the hearts of the British people, and rightly so.

The concept of conscience was primarily responsible for the development of the role of the fiduciary. This concept is central to much of English trust and company law and the regulation of our financial markets. The two most notable fiduciary office holders are company directors and trustees. The meaning of fiduciary in English law is, however, vague and widely misunderstood.

Members of the public and politicians have expressed dismay at the failure of the regulatory authorities and the professional advisers concerned with the Maxwell pension funds, to intervene. There is clearly a significant difference between the view that those advising pension funds have of their role, and the view that the public and the politicians have. Some of the interpretations that are put on the word fiduciary in the context of not only occupational pension schemes, but also in the context of corporate governance in general, could fairly be summed up in the words of Lord Atkin, quoting from *Alice Through The Looking Glass*: "I know of only one authority which might justify the suggested method of construction. When I use a word," Humpty Dumpty said in rather a scornful tone, "it means just what I choose it to mean, neither

more nor less." The question is, said Alice, "whether you can make words mean different things." The question is, said Humpty Dumpty, "which is to be master — that's all." (*Liveridge v. Anderson* [1941] 3 All E.R. 338 at 361).

Pension provision, whether through the state scheme or through personal or occupational schemes, is about the transfer of wealth between age groups or generations. The historical reduction of old-age poverty is one of the great successes of the modern welfare system.

Pensioners are not a legal or actuarial term of art, they are a diverse body of people representing a rapidly growing social category. The diversity of this body of people is frequently overlooked in actuarial analyses of dependency ratios, i.e. the proportion of pensioners to earners. Economic experts predict that the cost of pension provision in the next century will be an issue giving rise to profound social, economic and moral questions.

Professor Paul Johnson, in *Workers versus Pensioners*, said: "The rapid ageing of the populations of all industrial countries over the next forty years, will be an economic transformation of vastly greater magnitude than the Seventies oil price shock or the Eighties' recession."

It is essential to the continuing solvency of the state scheme and the economic foundation for any sense of moral responsibility to the prevention

of poverty in old age, that government can off-load some of this cost to private pension provision. This is partly achieved in the UK through the process of contracting-out of Serps and partly through the favourable tax treatment accorded to Revenue-approved pension schemes. The total cost of the tax relief given to such schemes in 1991-2 was £91 billion. The maintenance of good relations between government and the pensions industry, and with financial markets in general, is therefore, crucial.

Pension funds constitute a profitable business for investment managers and custodians. They are also one of the biggest investors in quoted shares on the Stock Exchange. The market value of pension funds' shares has risen more than eight-fold in the years 1979-89. By 1990, pension funds held 31.4 per cent of all quoted securities.

Beneficial ownership of those pension fund assets is generally vested in the members of occupational pension schemes. There is no current legal requirement, nor is any proposed in Taurus, that documentation or other evidence of title, reflect that fact or even that they are pension fund assets. (The Uncertified Securities Regulations 1992, reg. 67)

The relationship between Whitehall and the pensions industry (and the financial markets in general) is

BUSINESS DIARY

Abbey penalises 'normal' people

From Mr G.D. Clarke

Sir, My wife and I recently transferred the balances in our Abbey National accounts to new accounts because of different interest rates. The work could not be done on the spot, which meant we had to make separate visits later on to put our signatures in the new books.

Property marker

A SIGN, perhaps, that the property market is reaching the bottom. Alan Goldberg and Jonathan Gold, who founded Gable House Properties in 1976 to take advantage of opportunities arising from the 1974 property crash, have done the same thing again. Gable House, where shareholders saw their investments increase four-fold in three years, was floated on the USM in 1983, capitalised at £2.5 million, graduated to a full listing a year later and was then bought by Ladbrooke for £22 million in 1986. Goldberg and Gold's five-year service contracts with Ladbrooke have now come to an end and the duo hope that history is about to repeat itself. They have formed First London Investment with the express intention of capitalising on the present property market collapse. They think the market will continue to decline for the next 12 to 18 months but claim this will give them a solid base for profits in the future — a policy expected to pay dividends from 1994 onwards. "Our objective is to purchase mainly let property to be commercial, retail, industrial or residential, with our initial activities being mainly in the UK," says Goldberg. "Later on, we do not rule out expanding into Europe."

Heaven or hell

THE single European market is rapidly becoming reality, but those age-old national prejudices refuse to disappear. Peter van Cuylenburg, a group director of Mercury Communications, recently suggested that "for most people the idea of a European heaven would be British police, French food, an Italian lover, German engineer

and Swiss organisation". But this, he said, had its flip side. "Hell would be British food, French engineering, Italian police, German politics and a Swiss lover."

A READER tells us of yet another appropriate name. The Metropolitan Police 6 Area (West) Traffic Unit at Alperton, Middlesex, is headed by a Mr Carter.

Sir Denys who?

THE 11,000 employees based at several ICI plants on Teesside had the shock of their lives last week when a story about the group's financial state appeared in a local newspaper. The fall in profits mentioned in the article in the *Darlington & Stockton Times* was, however, the least of their concerns. For the article referred to ICI's chairman as Sir Denys Hanson.



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Keeping a clear conscience on complex issue of pensions law



Time for change: Robert Maxwell's use of pension funds has prompted calls for new rules

and the vagueness of many trust law concepts, it is often impossible to advise with sufficient certainty.

The law should not attempt to deal with every contingency in advance. Many in the pensions industry and financial community find difficulty coping with the volume of regulations issued by regulatory bodies. The trust law-based system, by its very nature, is developed principally by High Court litigation, the cost of which is frequently met out of pension fund assets.

Where access to justice is unequal, then fundamental questions about the rule of law may be raised. The social security committee has recommended that the newly elected government should establish a review body to consider the formulation of new pensions legislation. This body should take evidence in open forum so that, in the words of the committee, it "... would be a welcome break in the post-war approach, where some powerful lobbyists have been given access in the pre-legislative stages of a Bill which has been denied to others with equal or greater interest".

In the final analysis, responsibility for ensuring that financial regulation operates within an appropriate legal framework rests with government. Yet much of the legislation in this area, particularly that relating to pensions, is not sufficiently attractive to be allocated parliamentary time, hence the huge body of subordinate legislation in pensions law. The legislators (never mind lay trustees) have difficulty understanding the complexities of the subject. The extent and manner of consultation is, therefore, crucial.

The implementation rate of select committee and Royal Commission reports is not high. It was noted in the law commission's 1990 annual report that "... for the second parliamentary session running, the government's legislative programme includes no Bills implementing law commission reports."

In the light of this, the social security committee is to be complimented on its recommendation that if an incoming government fails to establish an appropriate independent review body, then another select committee should take on that task and draft a pensions Bill itself. Given adequate resources, this could prove to be a new and constructive route for select committees, ensuring, so far as the social security committee is concerned, a return of conscience to the law (assuming that appropriate legislation was passed).

The immediate question, however, for the 19 million members of occupational pension schemes in this country, and for those whose savings rely on financial market regulations, and for any incoming prime minister, is who will be the Keeper of the Queen's Conscience after the general election.

The author is head of the pensions unit at Cameron, Mackie, Hewitt, and a special adviser to the Commons social security committee.

Leading article, page 15

CITY DIARY

Nasdaq on the lookout

GLOBAL custody, which, to the layman, means the computerisation of settlement systems, and represents a core profit centre for banks, will be taking on a higher profile within Chase Manhattan. Isobel Carter has been recruited as head of strategic marketing for Chase, with responsibility for Europe, the Middle East and Africa. To accept the post, Carter — who previously marketed securities for the London Stock Exchange — has resigned as marketing director of Nasdaq International, the European office of the North American securities exchange, the third biggest exchange in the world after New York and Tokyo. Her Nasdaq boss, Lynne Jones, its managing director, is looking for a replacement. "We will probably advertise, but it will be a difficult slot to fill," he says. "We are looking for someone with marketing experience, languages, because we cover the whole of Europe, and knowledge of ADR business." For the right candidate, he promises an exciting career. Through its London office, Nasdaq already operates a trading facility in the European time zone, for all Nasdaq stocks. "We have more ADRs than the New York Stock Exchange," says Jones. "At the moment the facility, Nasdaq International Trading Services, is not used very much but we are lobbying the SEC for permission to expand into NYSE stocks. Then it could become very interesting indeed." He hopes that approval will be granted within six to eight weeks.



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Mr Speaker, I shall begin with a review of the

On Tuesday afternoon Norman Lamont delivers his pre-election

economic situation and prospects. I shall then deal

budget speech. Find out what it means for interest rates, exchange

with monetary policy and the public finances.

Finally, I will present my tax proposals. I have

to his feet call up Reuters Pages RBSA-B, and watch The Royal Bank

sought to address a number of the concerns

of Scotland's Treasury and Capital Markets team provide instant

put to me and to carry forward tax reform

analysis and in-depth interpretation as the Budget unfolds.

initiated by my predecessors. The measures I have

Knowledge, experience, expertise. It's all yours at the touch of a

announced meet the three main requirements

key. Up-to-the-minute information and informed comment from

of any Budget. I commend it to the House.

the Royal Bank's Treasury Economist, Marian Bell - Reading

Marian Bell on Reuters RBSA-B - Reading

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	Bid	Offer	+/-	Y/M		Bid	Offer	+/-	Y/M		Bid	Offer	+/-	Y/M		Bid	Offer	+/-	Y/M	
ABERY UNIT TRUST MANAGERS						Investment Growth	312.30	322.30	--	1.25					Growth Equity	251.00	266.10	-0.9	3.27	
BD Holloman & Investments						Investment Fund	297.00	322.00	--	2.25					Master Acc	182.00	201.50	-1.0	1.27	
BHS BAL 0545 717273						Investment Fund	192.00	201.50	--	1.50				Master Acc	167.70	172.50	-0.3	0.49		
International	6.28	6.45	-0.17	0.23		Investment Fund	192.00	201.50	--	1.50				Master Acc	170.00	175.20	-0.3	0.63		
Dividend Cdt	47.50	50.33	-0.14	0.54		Investment Fund	192.00	201.50	--	1.50				Master Acc	172.10	175.60	-0.6	2.88		
Global Fund	1.20	1.20	0.00	0.00		Investment Fund	192.00	201.50	--	1.50				Master Acc	172.10	175.60	-0.6	2.88		
Global Growth	55.20	58.79	-0.26	2.85		Investment Fund	192.00	201.50	--	1.50				Master Acc	172.10	175.60	-0.6	2.88		
High Inv Bond	127.00	138.00	-0.10	1.05		Investment Fund	192.00	201.50	--	1.50				Master Acc	172.10	175.60	-0.6	2.88		
World Fund	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.00		Investment Fund	192.00	201.50	--	1.50				Master Acc	172.10	175.60	-0.6	2.88		
Fund Fund Int	11.60	12.00	-0.20	0.35		Investment Fund	192.00	201.50	--	1.50				Master Acc	172.10	175.60	-0.6	2.88		
ARTISIT MANAGEMENT LTD						Investment Fund	201.50	224.00	-2.40	1.50					Master Acc	172.10	175.60	-0.6	2.88	
10 Queen's Quay, Aberdeen AB9 1QJ						Investment Fund	201.50	224.00	-2.40	1.50					Master Acc	172.10	175.60	-0.6	2.88	
0224 0735 07000 0000 00000						Investment Fund	201.50	224.00	-2.40	1.50					Master Acc	172.10	175.60	-0.6	2.88	
071 374 6801						Investment Fund	201.50	224.00	-2.40	1.50					Master Acc	172.10	175.60	-0.6	2.88	
Amer Inv Gdt	3.12	3.18	-0.06	0.27		Investment Fund	201.50	224.00	-2.40	1.50					Master Acc	172.10	175.60	-0.6	2.88	
European	1.42	1.42	0.00	0.00		Investment Fund	201.50	224.00	-2.40	1.50					Master Acc	172.10	175.60	-0.6	2.88	
Europe	8.10	8.10	0.00	0.00		Investment Fund	201.50	224.00	-2.40	1.50					Master Acc	172.10	175.60	-0.6	2.88	
Global	1.20	1.20	0.00	0.00		Investment Fund	201.50	224.00	-2.40	1.50					Master Acc	172.10	175.60	-0.6	2.88	
Global Inv	1.10	1.10	0.00	0.00		Investment Fund	201.50	224.00	-2.40	1.50					Master Acc	172.10	175.60	-0.6	2.88	
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TUESDAY MARCH 10 1992

THE TIMES TUESDAY MARCH 10 1992

EQUITY PRICES 25

Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight day price movements on this page. Add up the daily price movements and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money available. You will also find the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No	Company	Group	Code or Name
1	Grosvenor	Property	
2	Schwartz	Banks/Dic	
3	Shell	Ole. Gas	
4	Diamond Corp	Drapery/Stns	
5	Br Aerospace	Motor/Air	
6	Courtaulds Text	Textiles	
7	Rochet Chem	Industrial	
8	Anstrut	Electrical	
9	Transport Dev	Transport	
10	Soc & New	Breweries	
11	Inchcape	Industrial	
12	Asoci Br Port	Transport	
13	BOC	Industrial	
14	Loyola	Electrical	
15	Sunbeam	Drapery/Stns	
16	Marley	Building/Rels	
17	Cromwick	Foods	
18	Smith WH A'	Drapery/Stns	
19	Neville	Industrial	
20	Hogg Robinson	Drapery/Stns	
21	Salween (C)	Foods	
22	NFC	Transport	
23	Booker	Foods	
24	Fairhaven Ind	Ole. Gas	
25	Taylor Woodrow	Building/Rels	
26	Siba & Everett	Chem/Pers	
27	Bespak	Industrial	
28	Simon Eng	Industrial	
29	Herries Coal	Industrial	
30	Socent Trent	Water	
31	Dunhill	Drapery/Stns	
32	ENAP	Newspaper/Pub	
33	Sectrey	Building/Rels	
34	Hampden Hm	Drapery/Stns	
35	App Holz	Electrical	
36	Bass	Breweries	
37	Rakus	Electrical	
38	Anglian Water	Water	
39	Citroen	Industrial	
40	App Wiggins	Paper/Print	
41	Briony	Property	
42	Aries	Building/Rels	
43	Surer	Industrial	
44	Eurospare	Leisure	

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Please take into account any minus sign

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily total for the weekly dividend of £5,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

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Wilderness that has burst into bloom

Life is being breathed back into Teesside, as leisure facilities and hi-tech businesses replace the old industrial eyesores. Peter Davenport reports

With a General Election in the air, party strategists are busy planning their sound bites and photo opportunities, those carefully choreographed occasions when politicians seek to present themselves in their best, vote-winning style. Such image-making can have lasting impact.

Five years ago Mrs Thatcher's brief stroll across wasteland in Teesside earned the headline a "Walk in the wilderness" as she launched her government's urban regeneration strategy amidst some of the worst industrial dereliction and blighted land in the country. The television and newspaper cameras captured a moment that summed up a wider problem.

Should the present, or future, prime minister choose to follow in Mrs Thatcher's footsteps, it would be to highlight a different message, not of despair but of hope and achievement. Today a different panorama is rising from a landscape that was once dominated by the superstructures of heavy industry.

Steel and chemicals remain important, with millions of pounds of new investment. But now there are modern office blocks, bustling retail parks, waterside houses, enhanced leisure facilities and, unlikely as it may once have seemed, the imminent creation of a world-class nature reserve stretching across 2,500 acres of woods and wetlands.

The catalyst of change was the Teesside Development Corporation, created in 1987. But it was not the only hand on the tiller of regeneration. Industry, commerce and the region's local authorities have all played their part in creating a new image — one that has succeeded in attracting inward investment even during a depressed economic climate.

The lifespan of the corporation has now been extended to 1997 and its initial boundaries, covering some 19 square miles of some of the most industrially and social-

ly depressed land in the country, could be expanded.

By then, says Duncan Hall, the chief executive, the corporation will have injected £300 million of public money into its programme and generated at least £2 billion of private sector investment.

Since the day he was appointed to the job, a local boy returning to his home town, Mr Hall has refused to use grants and subsidies to lure new companies and instead adopted a high-profile policy of raising the investment value of the area by pioneering ambitious schemes, attracting major developments and persuading industry to move into Teesside for strictly commercial reasons.

There have been disappointments along the way and criticism from sceptics of the whole concept of urban development programmes which they see as elitist and artificial. But Mr Hall is convinced that the impressive achievements to date offer Teesside the opportunity of a more stable and prosperous future.

"By the end of this decade the

people of Teesside will be able to live, work and play in an environment which simply would not have been possible five years ago.

When we started, a surfeit of large plans were issued over many years as to what the future aspirations of the area were. They had not been met, so the community had the right to be cynical about what we said we were going to do. In the end they had to see things happening and that is now before their eyes.

Wherever you look now there are new developments coming through the ground."

The largest is taking place on 250 acres of former wasteland in a loop of the River Tees. Teesdale, three times as big as the Canary Wharf development in London Docklands, is a £600 million investment with high-quality office accommodation attracting rents four times higher than five years ago, a range of private and

social housing and leisure facilities where 1,000 people will be living and working by October. It was the site of Mrs Thatcher's well-recorded walk.

It is also the location for the new Joint University College on Teesside, a venture between Durham University and Teesside Polytechnic. The first 240 students will enrol in October. It is an important milestone for the area, previously the largest industrial conurbation in the country without its own university.

This unique venture complements the move by the Polytechnic to take advantage of new government legislation and become the University of Teesside.

Another development is designed to give the Tees Offshore Base an important role in future sub-sea technology. Already more than 1,000 people work from the base, effectively replacing those lost when the last shipyard on the

river closed down in the mid 1980s. Now a £50 million joint venture has been announced between Northern Ocean Services, part of Cable and Wireless, and the Wellstream Corporation of America to put the base among the top providers of services to the international subsea gas and oil industry.

The development that attracted most criticism was the decision to build a £165 million marina at Hartlepool on the north-east coast. Yet it has proved so popular that the 80 berths originally planned have multiplied and will eventually total 750.

A major disappointment was the decision last year by the Ministry of Defence not to transfer its quality assurance division, and 1,500 jobs, to the Preston Farm location. Private sector firms have been attracted in its place and up to 1,600 new jobs are expected to be created.

Reflecting on the achievements of the past five years, Mr Hall said:

PHOTOGRAPHS: CARL RUTHERFORD/NORTH NEWS



SEA CHANGE

Oil on troubled waters

JIM POTTER, the manager of the Tees Offshore Base, surveys the transformation of the old Smith's Dog Shipyard into an advanced technology centre to service the North Sea oil and gas industry, writes Rodney Hobson.

The yard closed in 1986 and was bought a year later by the Tees and Hartlepool Port Authority. In the past 12 months, roads, water and high voltage electricity supplies have been completed at the 120-acre site, which has more than a mile of waterfront. Unsound buildings were demolished, others refurbished. A new administrative centre will open next month and its 5,000 sq ft of office space has all been let.

can't do it by coercion. It has to be done by co-operation. I still believe in a property- and market-led approach to development although it has to have related infrastructure to satisfy that demand.

"But in the end the corporation has not had to resort to the very extensive powers it has and in certain cases we erred on the side of the local authorities rather than implement development through more coercive methods. That basis of co-operation has been the key."

A BRAND NEW UNIVERSITY COLLEGE IS MAKING EVERYONE GREEN.

Brand new Honours Degree courses in Environmental Management and Environmental Technology. Plus European Studies and Human Sciences. And a specially designed energy-saving College building on the Teesside Development Corporation's superb Teesdale site in Stockton-on-Tees. It all adds up to a package which is green in more ways than one.

Our new Joint University College on Teesside is a remarkable three way partnership. Teesside Polytechnic, Durham University and the Teesside Development Corporation have come together to create the first of a new generation of Higher Education institutions.

We have pooled the distinctive strengths of the University and the Polytechnic. And created an

exciting, innovative and participative approach which is committed to solving the new problems facing Higher Education today.

Generous investment by the Teesside Development Corporation has provided our new College, purpose built to create a comfortable and welcoming environment for students, staff and visitors.

And of course, the Joint University College on Teesside is also committed to continuing its unique partnership approach by working closely with business, industry and other organisations.

We will be opening our doors October 1992 so contact Professor Bob Parfitt on (0642) 342016 now for more information.



THE JOINT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ON TEESSIDE — EDUCATION MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

Joint University College on Teesside, University Boulevard, Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland TS17 6BH.



Ronald Faux reports on the 'supershed' built on an old racecourse, a new concept for Britain

Farewell the high street?

On the 200 acres where Stockton racecourse once stood, there is now an £80 million shopping and leisure development that introduces the American concept of "shed" retailing to Britain. The term does not do justice, however, to the spread of smartly designed stores set around three sides of an oblong of tarmac with space for 2,000 cars.

The complex is designed to enable the shopper to drive to a large store containing a vast selection of goods. The stores are indeed well-appointed sheds, with large back doors opening to a service road. David Gunnery, the chairman of Man's World, a menswear retailer, was an early arrival in Teesside Park. "The road network near by makes this the right place to be," he says. "We are very pleased with the quality and variety of the retailers who have come here."

About 15 of the 26 units are already occupied, he says, and the rest have been allocated. Retailers are starting to feel more optimistic. Store units of between 7,000 sq ft and 20,000 sq ft mean more space for a wider variety of goods, and the economies of scale mean lower prices for customers. Man's World claims to be the biggest store of its kind in the North-East, offering reductions of up to 20 per cent on most high-street prices. Space at a

sq ft contrasts sharply with the £120 a sq ft that some Zone A high-street retailers have to pay.

Plenty of high-street names have moved to Teesside Park but some local entrepreneurs have taken elegantly appointed "sheds", which they can fit out as they choose.

British Gas, for example, has built a full-sized house in its store as an unusual exhibition piece.

Traders believe that after initial concern the high-street traders have accepted the new giant on their doorstep. One trader said: "They were afraid at first but there is still room for the small independent retailer and what Teesside Park has done is generate a lot of new business, particularly among men who dislike going into town with their wives to shop. Here they can jump out of the car, get what they want quickly and jump back in."

As the growing number of stores opening in the park leads to greater choice, and people discover the free parking and easy access to the trunk roads, and with a 250,000 sq ft leisure complex opening near the new shopping area, the high-street traders could find their fears of competition reviving. The attractions of a ten-screen multiplex cinema, a 40-lane bowling alley, bars, restaurants and a night club may prove irresistible to customers who once shopped in the high street.



Good buys from the shed: shoppers at the Stockton centre load up in the large car park

River flows to a cleaner future

Teessiders have been apt to turn their backs on the River Tees. For generations, it has not been a river they could admire nor one into which they would willingly jump on a hot day.

The shipbuilders, steel makers, chemists and engineers who established themselves on each bank found the river receiving a useful drain. Ronald Faux writes. After a century of heavy industry pouring gallons of pollution into the stream, as well as sewage discharges from a large conurbation, the river that crawled sluggishly through Middlesbrough became ugly on the eye and bad on the nose.

All that is soon to change, and a transformation which must seem to Teessiders

almost as remarkable as the parting of Jordan's waters is about to happen.

The catalyst for transformation is a £40 million barrage due for completion in 1994, across the river at Blue House Point, between Stockton and Middlesbrough. It will hold the Tees upstream at high-tide level, presenting a 23km head of navigable waterway for recreation.

At present, this stretch drains with the outgoing tide to reveal a trough of stagnant mudbanks and industrial debris.

The scheme will put a garland of fresh water around the Teesside development as new cleansing plants treat discharges that have been dumped into the

From stinking mud banks to salmon spawning ground, the Tees is about to lose its unlovely image

river. Eventually this will produce water fit to bathe in and a stretch that the developers claim will be unique in a British urban area. The downstream stretch of the Tees would still have heavy industrial usage but, with the help of EC legislation and National Rivers Authority surveillance, even the estuary will be improved.

Unlike a number of other estuarial barrage schemes,

the Tees Barrage and Crossing Act, 1990, went through

Parliament with little com-

plaint after Teesside Development Corporation negotiated with objectors rather than confronting them. The fear was that a change in the river flow would be detrimental to vital wintering grounds for waders and four sites of special scientific interest at the river's mouth. The corporation made computer models of the likely impact, and the actual effect will be monitored for up to ten years to check that the computer predictions have been correct. The structure is de-

signed to allow as much water to flow downstream as ever did.

However, sea water will no longer be able to flow upstream and when the tide goes out, the Tees upstream will be contained behind the barrage gates. Running above the barrage will be a road bridge crossing the Tees.

The barrage gates are designed to contend with the once-a-century flood and to become neutral in flood conditions. The designers have raised riverside areas prone to flooding by about six feet to account for the possible effects of global warming.

The barrage will have a 90m span between the banks. There will be a lock navigation system on the

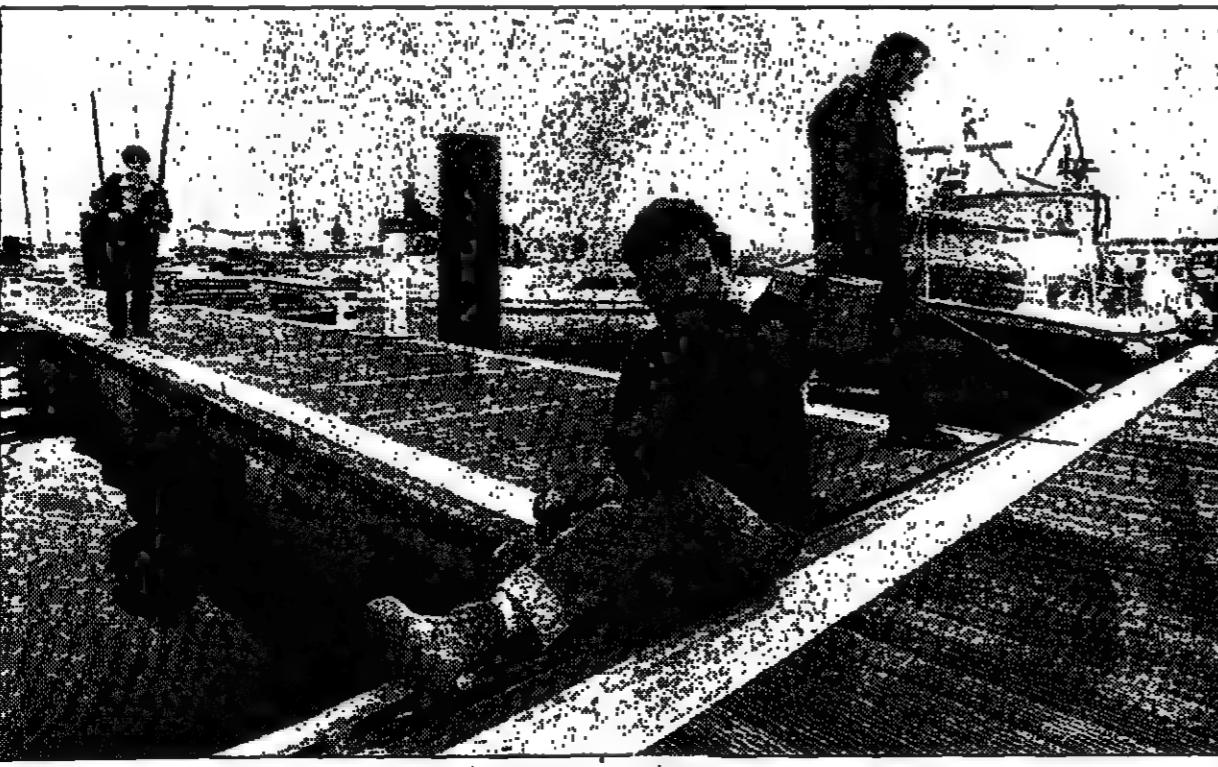
south side to allow sea-going craft to navigate the upper reaches of the river.

As the water quality improves, upstream salmon and sea trout can be expected to return to the river that passes for migrating fish and eels to be provided.

On each shore of the barrage, pavilions are planned. One will act as an administrative headquarters for the National Rivers Authority, which is intended eventually to take over the operation of the barrage from the development corporation. The second pavilion will become an information centre and viewing area where migrating salmon and sea trout can be watched moving through the fish pass.

About £60 million was ploughed into the core infrastructure, priming the pump as the new developments started. The first developers on the scene were Murray BS with a £10 million office construction at Cunard House, which has become the flagship of Teesside. Murray's neighbouring "Boulevard" office development is designed for smaller companies. Falcondale offers more high-specification offices on a business development overlooking the Tees.

Residential schemes are undertaken by Wimpey Homes and Bradford and Northern Housing Association, and sheltered accommoda-



At the point of many returns: moorings are in high demand among yachtsmen on the regenerated waterfront

A safe berth is no joke

The success of Hartlepool marina has silenced the scoffs of its critics

was once one of the world's leading shipbuilding centres, but the last of its famous yards closed in 1962.

In more recent years, the lingering skills of its craftsmen have been turned to ship restoration rather than building, and the testimony to their abilities is on show in HMS Warrior, now a popular tourist attraction at Portsmouth, and HMS Trincom-

ale, the world's second oldest warship, built in 1817, and which will be a permanent feature of the maritime centre at the marina.

The decision to create the marina was intended as a symbol of Hartlepool's determination to shake off its old, care-worn image, and establish a new reputation. In spring 1989, the Teesside Development Corporation

BRIAN BOYLE, aged 37, a senior officer with Teesside Development Corporation, was killed in a road accident on Sunday, March 1.

Mr Boyle, a skilled and highly experienced civil engineer, was on secondment as operations manager to the corporation from the Glasgow-based firm of engineering consultants, Crouch Hogg Waterman.

He was highly respected for his achievements in civil engineering and had played an important part in the success of the corporation.

was allocated £51 million, one of the largest single grants ever given to an urban regeneration project, to begin work on the marina.

Initially, about 80 berths were intended, but huge demand has meant that the number has had to be doubled on three occasions, and there will eventually be 750.

Hartlepool intends to provide a full range of services and facilities for yachtsmen as good as, if not better, than any found around the coast of Britain.

The marina opened in April last year, and the joke among local sailors now is that should you take your craft to sea, you will find your berth already re-let by the time you nose back into harbour, so great is the demand.

The marina is at the centre of a larger, more ambitious scheme called "A Marina and Much More", covering about 200 acres and a mile of waterfront around the South Docks. It includes waterfront housing, specialist shops, a hotel, restaurant bars and a business park.

PETER DAVENPORT

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Oil on troubled waters

After the management buy-out, the former Teesside Park has emerged into an adequately run centre to serve the needs of the local economy. But the oil price has fallen again, and the market for oil products is uncertain. The future of the oil industry in the region remains to be seen.

There is a significant amount of oil exploration and production activity in the North Sea, particularly around the Shetland Islands. The oil price has been volatile, and the future of the industry is uncertain. The government is currently reviewing the oil tax regime, and this could have an impact on the industry's future.

The oil industry has been a major employer in the region, and its decline has had a significant impact on the local economy. The government is working to diversify the economy away from oil, and there are efforts to develop other industries such as tourism and manufacturing.

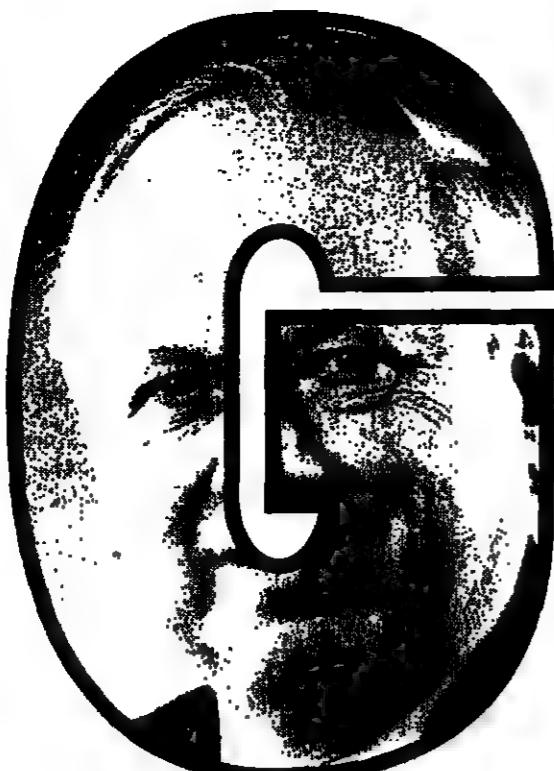
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I am proud of ICI's conservation record on Teesside. Our successful partnership there serves as a powerful example of what can be achieved by industry working together with conservationists and local communities.

Sir Denys Henderson
Chairman, ICI PLC

Companies of local and national importance on Teesside recognise their environmental responsibilities. They prove that industry and nature can co-exist.

Professor David Bellamy

The launch of the 2,500 acre nature reserve is a major step in the creation of a new environment on Teesside. As part of the urban regeneration of Teesside, it is change on a grand scale.

The Rt. Hon.
Michael Heseltine, MP,
Secretary of State
for the Environment

Salmon have been absent from the Tees for over half a century and it is a measure of our faith in the recovery of the Tees that we are going to introduce over a million young salmon into the river during the next five years.

The Rt. Hon.
Lord Crickhowell
Chairman,
National Rivers Authority

I am president of the RSNC, a Partnership of 47 Wildlife Trusts working throughout the UK to secure the future of the countryside and its wildlife. The Partnership is particularly concerned with reversing the fortunes of rivers and wetlands. They are in trouble and urgent action is needed. I welcome this new initiative to restore Teesmouth's wetlands to their former glory.

Sir David Attenborough
CVO, CBE, FRS, President, RSNC
The Wildlife Trusts Partnership

SIDE OF TEESIDE

Teesside has long been renowned for its industrial might. It is changing rapidly, becoming more diversified and more attractive. We are developing the largest man made nature reserve in the UK. Working with industry, bodies such as the Cleveland Wildlife Trust, and the community. Creating the new Joint University College with its emphasis on environmental courses and building

the Tees Barrage. Dramatic change is taking place for the benefit of people, industry and investment.

**For more details contact: Duncan Hall,
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How green grows industry

The biggest man-made reserve in the United Kingdom is setting a regional style, Peter Davenport reports

In any competition to select the site for a new nature reserve, Teesside, with its industrial landscape and history as a steel-making and chemicals production centre, would not figure high. Its backdrop of towering chimneys, cooling towers, miles of pipework and flame-splitting furnaces hardly makes it the most attractive destination for even the hardiest creatures.

Yet Teesside is to be the location for the biggest man-made reserve in the United Kingdom. Costing £1 million and stretching over 2,500 acres, seven times the size of Hyde Park, it will be created on land formally owned by ICI on the north bank of the River Tees.

The reserve is perhaps the most imaginative of the flagship schemes of the Teesside Development Corporation. Together with moves to clean up the waters of the Tees, and a county-wide initiative on the environment it is part of a concerted attempt to "green" one of Europe's most concentrated industrial areas.

Other improvements include the building of the £50 million Tees Barrage, which will create eleven miles of clean, tide-free waterway, complete with a fish pass to allow new salmon stock to move to and from sea. A riverside site there will



Back to nature: Dr Ian Watt, development corporation director, at the £11 million wildlife reserve

be the new headquarters of the Inspectorate of Pollution from May.

Research by the National Rivers Authority shows significant reductions in two key pollutant indicators and the organisation has embarked on a programme to introduce a million salmon into the river over the next five years; the first time the species had been in the Tees in 30 years.

The nature reserve, supported by local authorities, industry, the government and charities, will create a series of new natural habitats in reed beds, grasslands, swamp, saltmarsh, water and woodland. The area is already an internationally important refuge for birds, waders and wild fowl, attracting significant species including the shelduck, sandpiper, redshank and grey plover.

Its importance is expected to grow further as the reserve takes shape and provides more of the correct habitat for wildlife and wild plants.

The design for the reserve has taken ideas from several Dutch schemes, a country recognised as the leading expert in the development of wetland nature reserves.

Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, described the new nature reserve as part of the wider

urban regeneration of Teesside and called it "change on a grand scale."

Concern about the environmental impact of their activities has led many big industries on Teesside to introduce specific "green" programmes. ICI is to spend £63 million on an environmental protection programme for the whole of its local operations. It has already spent £5 million to grow seven reed beds, each the size of a football pitch, where bacteria in the roots of the

reeds devour liquid effluent from the Billingham Chemical Products production to purify the water that carries it. Another scheme will build a sulphuric acid recovery plant at Billingham to stop waste acid disposal in the North Sea.

British Steel is investing in its Coatham Marsh nature reserve and Tioxide has created a wetland area

along the entire length of the Tees Corridor. The trust places particular importance on involving the local community through its programme of "greengreen volunteer teams".

Power row goes on

WHILE work goes at full speed erecting the country's newest power station on Teesside, an argument is growing over how power produced will be fed into the national grid.

The power station, the result of a meeting of minds between Enron, a major US power producer, and the chemicals and polymers division of ICI, is being built on ICI's Wilton site on Teesside. Rodney Hobson writes. The plant is due to be commissioned in April next year.

But Teesside Development Corporation is in a fix. Although the jobs to be created are welcome, the corporation has objected to the proposed route of overhead power lines, which will connect the station to the national grid at Lackenby.

The connection is vital to the project because ICI will be taking only 257 megawatts of power for its Teesside operations. The station, the biggest combining heat and power in the world, will be able to produce 1,375 MW, of which 500 MW will go to Midlands Electricity, 400 MW to Northern Electric and 200 MW each to the regional electricity companies in the South-West and south Wales.

The remaining 150 MW will be used to run the power station and provide back-up.

The corporation fears that the power lines will run too close to other developments in the area, too close to the A19 and too close to the national park. The European Commission has also raised queries over the effect of overhead power lines on the environment.

There will be a public inquiry in May.



Industry with a rural touch: the Teesside steel plant is one of the world's most productive

Steel still shows strength

BRITISH Steel announced last July that it wanted to go ahead with a new plate mill on Teesside to replace two mills at Scunthorpe and Dazell. Rodney Hobson writes. Although the company declined to put a price on the investment, saying only that it would be expensive, industry estimates suggest that the new mill could cost between £300 million and £400 million.

The move highlights the continuing strength of Teesside's traditional industries, which may benefit further from a big capital spending programme. The two mills to be replaced are old-fashioned. Economies could also be achieved by putting the facility on to one site that

already had a large modern steel complex.

While British Steel was examining the feasibility of the plant, it became increasingly clear that Europe would continue to over-produce. By November, all capital spending was back in the melting pot. The only schemes getting the nod were those with a rapid payback or involving necessary refurbishment, which is costing British Steel £200 million a year. Plans for Teesside are on hold.

Despite the difficulties, British Steel still provides employment for 6,500 people at its Teesside complex. After the proposed closure at Ravenscraig in Scotland this year, Teesside will be one of only four integrated plants in

Britain. For annual output, it is one of the biggest in the world, producing three and a half million tons.

An integrated plant is one that takes the raw materials and produces the finished product. Its materials are imported from the United States, Australia, South America and Africa.

The structural sections, beams, columns and joists for buildings that it turns out make it a world leader. It picked up a technique tried only in Japan for rolling steel from a slab as opposed to a billet and takes the process one stage further. Large pipes to carry oil, gas and water on land and under the sea are made in two mills at Hartlepool.

The first question any potential customer for factory or office space when they arrive to look around is "How do we get in and out?" says John Waits, Teesside's marketing and public relations officer.

Much effort has been directed towards attracting more airlines and tour operators and to persuading local manufacturers to use their local airport. At present a lot of air freight passes the end of the runway by road on its way to Heathrow. Although some freight forwarders operate from Teesside, the volume of freight that departs from Teesside is low, concentrated on emergency supplies and high-value, light-weight or perishable cargo.

The core business is commuter traffic: 340,000 passengers used Teesside last year. The region was an early participant in the North Sea gas and oil business, which

has established a thriving Air UK service between Teesside and Aberdeen. British Midland operates five flights daily to Heathrow and both Dan Air and Air UK flies to Amsterdam.

Market research is investigating likely demand for scheduled services to Paris, Brussels, Dublin and Belfast, to be operated by British Northern Airlines. Teesside has already clawed back a substantial volume of the holiday traffic lost last year: four tour operators plan to use the airport this season.

Although Teesside has a catchment population of 2.7 million, larger than that of Newcastle, the Tyne-side port has a larger base and is firmly established. To the south, the Leeds-Bradford airport offers stiff competition with Manchester International another powerful draw close by. Even so, the new vitality on Teesside and the 500,000 residents for whom the airport is the most convenient take-off point for business or holidays should ensure continued growth.

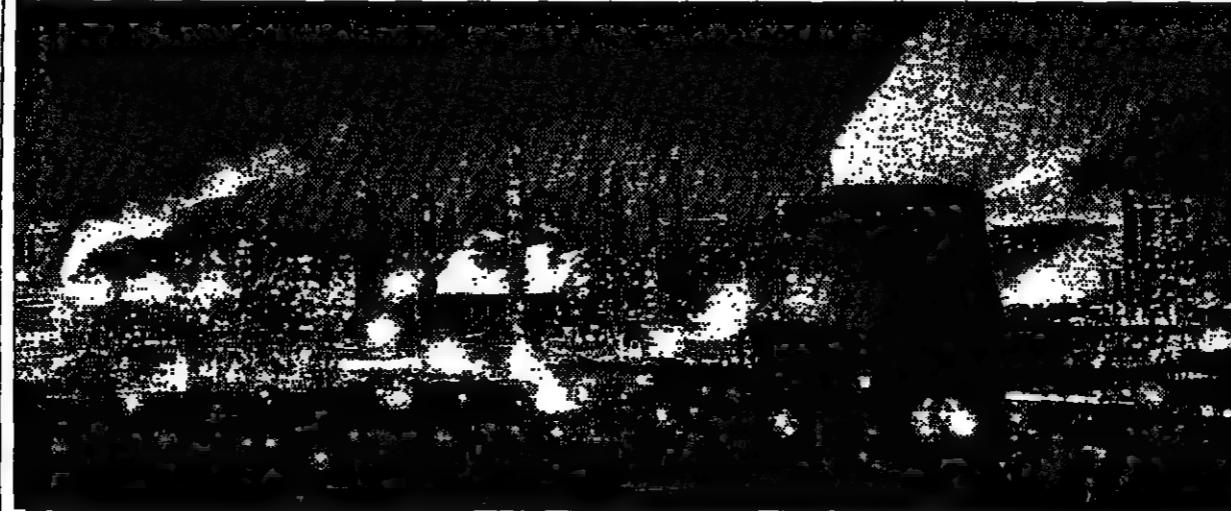
Taking into account the potential for freight and the expected rise in passenger traffic, an extension to the runway has been considered. To allow fully laden and fully fuelled 747s to operate from Teesside, another 2,000ft would be needed, at a cost of between £8 million and £10 million. The plan awaits a warmer economic climate but until dreams of transatlantic traffic can turn into reality, Teesside is content to be part of the regional transport scene providing a valuable spoke to established international hubs.

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setting a precedent for excellence



ICI's plant on Teesside. Now the company is investing £37 million in a new plant for a popular vegetarian product

THE COWS and sheep are rocking and rolling with joy on Teesside. At least, they are in the television advertisement, because Cleveland is where ICI produces Quorn, its fast-growing vegetable alternative to meat.

ICI decided in November to invest £37 million in a new production facility for Quorn on Teesside because of the demand for the product, Rodney Hobson writes. That will increase production capacity from 1,200 tons a year to 7,000 tons, enabling Marlow Foods, a fully owned subsidiary, to make Quorn available nationally and to take the first steps in selling Quorn to the world.

Work has started on the new facilities, at Stokesley and Belasis, where 100 people are already employed, and is scheduled for completion by the end of next year.

Quorn is made from fusarium graminearum, a tiny distant relative to the mushroom. Although it has existed for thousands of years, it was discovered

Multi-million pound mushroom

only in the early 1960s as a result of a search for a new source of protein.

Apart from being acceptable to vegans, it has the appeal of being low in fat and a good source of protein and dietary fibre. Quorn contains no cholesterol and is capable of absorbing the flavour from herbs and spices it is cooked with.

ICI has put more than 25 years into learning how to produce Quorn in sufficiently large quantities.

Marlow Foods provides the ideal growing conditions within a fermenter. Carbohydrate is added in the form of a solution of glucose together with oxygen, nitrogen and minerals. This liquid

medium supports rapid growth under carefully controlled conditions.

After a few days, harvesting starts. Quorn and excess liquid are pasteurised to stop further growth. The liquid is then filtered off, leaving sheets of Quorn that look similar to uncooked pastry. Vegetable flavours and a small amount of egg white are added to the product before it is cooked. Finally, the Quorn is sliced, diced or shredded.

Quorn has been marketed since 1984 but its success is comparatively recent. Sales have increased fivefold, from £3 million a year to £15 million over the past three years. It is now available in all major supermarket chains in more than 60 ready-made meals but it can also be bought as an original ingredient.

International expansion has begun by selling the product in Belgium and The Netherlands. A supermarket chain planned to put Quorn into 30 Belgian outlets but it was so popular it is now on sale in all 120 stores.

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Privatisation that whipped up a storm

The buyer of the port authority is tight-lipped about its plans

The successful bidder in the bloody battle for the Tees and Hartlepool Port Authority is trying to pour oil on troubled waters.

Teesside Holdings, which paid £180 million in the country's first privatisation of a trust port, refuses to cast any further light on the dispute that led to the abrupt departure of John Hackney, the port's chief executive, and Charles Wellington, its company secretary.

Nor will it give any indications of its plans to develop the port, which has a strategic importance for the region and which it won at the end of January.

About 40 million tons of cargo passes through in a year and ICI and British Steel are the main customers. Two-way trade in petrochemicals comes to 38 million tons.

Nissan is the leading manufacturer of the £2 million cars shipped through the Tees, followed by General Motors, Ford, Citroën, Peugeot and Subaru.

Trucks ports are expected to do well in the private sector. They have already shaken off the shackles of the Dock Labour Scheme, which restricted the use of the workforce but are still subject to restraints on borrowing and diversification which would be removed in a sell-off. A price of between £120 and £150 million was expected for Cleveland, where turnover runs at about £40 million a year and assets are valued at £60 million.

The omens were good for privatisation, so good that Mr Hackney led an enthusiastic management-employee offer to buy out the port for £150 million. The buy-out was the clear favourite but there were three other bids to put before the non-executive members of the port authority who chose the winner. Although the government had indicated that some preference would be given to buy-out teams in the port privatisations, the Ports Act insisted that all sales must be subject to competitive tender.

Ocean Group, one of Britain's biggest freight management and shipping companies, offered £155 million. It was already a big user of British ports and saw the acquisition of a port as a natural extension of its business. Ocean promised to combine with its own team and make a significant capital investment.

Teesside Holdings — joint-

holders of the port —

and the engineering group, 3i, the investment specialists, and Humberstone Holdings, a private company associated with Powell Duffryn.

Powell Duffryn — topped

management by £30 million.

Teesside Holdings was,

however, itself outbid. Maritime Transport Services, which operates the Thamessport container terminal, offered £210 million. However, it had borrowed heavily to buy Thamessport for £155 million and there were fears that cash generated in Cleveland would be used to fund the southern debt.

The judging panel came down in favour of Teesside Holdings but the sale of the port was delayed in January under a flurry of recrimination.

It was claimed that Teesside Holdings had promised a place on its board for a port authority representative, creating a conflict of interest for the adjudicator.

The new management moved in next day.

RODNEY HOBSON

A purpose-built centre for visitors from Cleveland and their clients. It has 80 sleeping berths, a public bar, a shop and a laundry. The cost of £1.5 million has been raised by voluntary contributions and the money will be required to complete the building.

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Watson Hawksley is undertaking the design of the Tees Barrage and of the associated works which include an international canoe slalom, navigation lock and fish pass.

This is part of the Teesside Development Corporation's plan to regenerate the Teesdale site and to enhance the quality of recreational and amenity pursuits along the River Tees corridor in Stockton.

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Chariot swings on as RFU reappoints driver Cooke to manage England until 1995 World Cup

By DAVID HANNS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE Rugby Football Union (RFU) confirmed yesterday that Geoff Cooke would remain as England team manager up to, and including, the 1995 World Cup. But Cooke, under whose aegis England have won two grand slams, will be stepping back from the "hands-on" coaching contact he has had with the squad since taking up the honorary post in October 1987.

Since Cooke's appointment, England have won 27 of 38 internationals and drawn one. Four of the ten defeats have been to Australia, one each to New Zealand and Argentina, and four in the five nations' championship. He has helped to develop a squad that can be ranked third in the world.

The RFU is working out more specific terms of reference for Cooke's position, which was newly created in 1987, but that is regarded as a formality. Already, Cooke, aged 50, in discussion with Don Rutherford, the RFU technical director, has worked out a programme

covering the next three years and now that his position is confirmed, he will put together a management team.

"I think it's likely I will have less of a role in practical coaching than in the last four years," Cooke said. "The time has come for me to step aside a bit and we will probably be looking to appoint an assistant coach." Thus far, Cooke has shared, first with Roger Utley and then Dick Best, the coaching of a side which reached the World Cup final last November as well as taking the two grand slams.

Best, who has been summing up at the time he has had to devote to coaching the senior side as distinct from England B, is examining whether his domestic and business life will permit him to continue, if invited. The third member of the present management is John Elliott, who has yet to confirm whether he could serve through until 1995.

There is little doubt of Best's enthusiasm for the coaching task: "We are trying

Italy see way of filling the gap

By BRYAN STILES

ITALY want to break into the "magic circle" of the five nations' championship, without actually taking part in the competition. The Italian Federation has its eyes on the free Saturday that each of the five nations' countries enjoys during the championship, using it to improve on the team's spirited performance in the World Cup.

Italy already play France in the Fira tournament for continental countries, and have contacted the four home unions pleading for a chance to play international matches against them on their free days.

The Wales and Scotland unions have expressed an interest, and the Italians are waiting to hear from England and Ireland. However, the English seem happy with the status quo, whereby the B

team plays the Italian national side masquerading as Italy B and still beats them.

One advantage in having a non-championship country involved is that it would help to keep home union teams at match fitness during the competition. It might have solved a problem for, say, the Irish, who had a trial on their free day last Saturday.

Maurizio Mondelli, the president of the Italian Federation, took the opportunity afforded by the England B team's visit to Rome at the weekend to further Italy's cause. "We could play the home countries at home one year and away the next," he said, "or perhaps we could play them every other season. It would be a great help." Romania could alternate with Italy if the proposal is accepted.

TENNIS

Edberg wants a slower game

By ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

AT THE start of a week in which the International Tennis Federation will be meeting to discuss ways of slowing down the game, Stefan Edberg, twice Wimbledon champion, has joined the chorus of concern.

Edberg, who was on the wrong end of 32 of the 105 aces served by Goran Ivanisevic in five matches in Stuttgart recently, feels that the game could lose its attraction for both players and spectators if the balance continues to shift towards power and away from finesse.

Something needs to be done because on fast surfaces with big servers, there is a lack of rallies and that does not make for good tennis."

Edberg finds the idea of returning to wooden rackets, advocated by Michael Stich, a "bit far-fetched", and is not sure that banning the hugely powerful wide-bodied rackets would be the answer. "You can't really blame the racket companies. They've made tremendous improvements in the quality of the rackets over the past decade. It would be possible to ban the wide-bodied rackets on the circuit, but not that many of the top players use them anyway."

Strangely, as he has become one of the most respected spokesmen for the men's tour, Edberg has not been invited to speak at a forum on the "speed of the game", organised by the Association of Tennis Professionals in Key Biscayne next week. The forum, intended to plumb the depths of feeling in the game, could initiate changes on the professional tour.



Edberg: concerned

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Trainers divulge festival fancies

By RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

IN THE run-up to Royal Ascot last June, *The Times* asked leading Flat trainers for two selections. Their recommendations provided a host of winners including Satin Flower (12-1) and Siskin (9-1).

Trainers' views are never more important than at the Cheltenham festival where picking winners is notoriously difficult.

With that in mind, leading trainers on both sides of the Irish Sea were asked to nominate a nap from their own yard and make one selection from another stable. Here are their views:

KIM BAILEY: Nap: Captain Frisk (National Hunt Chase). "He ran well at Newbury recently and is just coming into form. Four miles will suit him." Selection: Henry Mann (Ritz Club Chase).

IAN BALDING: Nap: Crystal Spirit (Stayers' Hurdle). "His recent Newbury win should have put him spot on." Selection: Money Street (Champion Hurdle).

TOBY BALDING: Nap: Morley Street (Champion Hurdle). "He's the one they've all got to beat. He's in very good order." Selection: Henry Mann (Queen Mother Champion Chase).

DAVID BARONS: Nap: Auction Law (Kim Muir Folke Walwyn Cup). "I think he will run terribly well." Selection: Biday (Champion Hurdle).

DAVID ELSWORTH: Nap: Fragrant Dawn (Arkle Trophy). Selection: Royal Gait (Champion Hurdle).

DAVID THOMSON: Nap: Fragrant Dawn (Arkle Trophy). Selection: King Credo (County Hurdle).

JOSH GIFFORD: Nap: Deep Sensation (Arkle Trophy).

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England's worst fears are realised as their inspirational captain limps out of a cricket World Cup stroll against Sri Lanka

Gooch's injury casts shadow over victory

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN BALLARAT, AUSTRALIA

FOR a team that had just won its tenth successive one-day international and moved to the brink of the World Cup semi-finals, England were in pensive mood here yesterday. Their greatest dread, the one contingency for which they were unprepared, had happened: Graham Gooch, their leader, had been struck down.

Ballarat had turned on a crowded, colourful carnival in the bank holiday sun, watched by more than 13,000 overheated people. The country ground had never held so many. But the cricket yesterday was mundane in its predictability and, so far as England are concerned, will be remembered only for the moment when Gooch aborted a chase to the boundary and clutched his left hamstring.

Quite what thoughts flashed through Gooch's mind in that moment scarcely bear consideration. But the concern bordering on panic, drove him instantly from the field. He left the side in the care of Alec Stewart, where, for the moment at least, it seems bound to stay.

Gooch emerged much later, in the tepid afterglow of a 106-run win over Sri Lanka, and did not hide his anxiety. He had already been examined by a specialist and the hamstring had been packed in ice. It might be only a minor pull; on the other hand, it might be torn.

"Either way," he said, "I am not going to take any chances. If it is not right, I won't play against South Africa on Thursday. There is no point. If it goes more severely, I won't be able to take any further part in the competition, and with one batsman struggling already, we can't afford to lose another."

Captain's call

IMRAN Khan, the Pakistan captain, has proposed that a reserve day should be set aside for matches in future World Cup tournaments.

Pakistan lost to South Africa by 20 runs in a rain-interrupted match on Sunday and Imran feels the extra day would help to avoid the situation where, in weather-affected fixtures, the team batting second must chase a total determined by the opposition's highest-scoring over.

"It is a ridiculous rule because the team batting sec-

ond has no chance," Imran said. "You might as well toss a coin. The administrators have to change the system. There is enough time for reserve days."

Kiep Wessels, the South Africa captain, said: "You need to find a balance. In the past, the side bowling second didn't have a chance. Now, it is around the other way."

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THE TIMES SPORT

TUESDAY MARCH 10 1992

Shilton decides to stay on the sidelines

Hopeful Smith takes charge at Bristol City

By LOUISE TAYLOR

SHILTON versus Smith is on the billing at Home Park tonight. Peter Shilton takes charge of Plymouth Argyle for the second time against the visitors from Bristol City, who will be under new management themselves after the appointment yesterday of Dennis Smith.

Smith, dismissed by Sunderland at Christmas, is Bristol's fourth manager in as many years and has signed a two-and-a-half year contract. "But I expect to be here much longer," he said yesterday.

"City has the potential to become a successful club, otherwise I would not be here. I stood in the crowd at Wolves on Saturday and I liked what I saw. There is money available for me, but we are not a Blackburn Rovers."

Smith refused to be drawn on speculation that he was hoping to appoint Malcolm Crosby, presently Sunderland's caretaker-manager as his No. 2. "We are great friends," was all he would say.

With Plymouth one point removed from the bottom of the second division table and City by two, it is a League game both need to win. Shilton, officially Plymouth's player-manager, will start in the dug-out rather than in goal.

Meanwhile, at the top of the table, Blackburn, who have taken only two points from the last 12 available to them, will tonight aim to maintain their unbeaten home record under the management of Kenny Dalglish.

Cooper to stay put

TERRY Cooper, the Birmingham City manager, has decided to stay with the third division promotion contenders. Cooper's future looked in doubt after the crowd disturbance during the match with Stoke City ten days ago was followed by a public criticism from the club chairman, Samesh Kumar.

After the pair had discussed the matter yesterday,

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PS
Blackburn	34	18	5	11	7	25	65
Brighton	34	18	5	11	7	25	65
Cambridge	34	18	5	11	7	25	65
Midtjylland	31	18	5	11	7	25	65
Nottingham	34	18	5	11	7	25	65
Derby Co	33	15	7	11	42	41	52
Charlton	35	15	7	13	42	41	52
Leicester	35	15	7	13	43	45	52
Swindon	33	14	10	10	55	44	46
Millwall	34	13	7	14	52	53	44
Newcastle	35	13	7	15	55	55	44
Southend	32	12	8	12	47	46	44
Bristol R	35	11	7	17	44	54	45
Walsall	35	11	7	17	40	40	47
Grimsby	33	11	9	15	40	40	47
Westford	33	10	7	18	34	40	37
Doncaster	34	10	7	17	35	35	36
Exeter	35	9	7	18	35	35	36
Newcastle	35	8	12	15	48	44	36
Bristol City	35	8	12	15	52	45	36
Plymouth	35	7	13	15	53	45	34
Port Vale	35	7	13	15	53	45	34

glish at the expense of South United, who stand fifth. Back in November, Southend defeated Blackburn 3-0 at Roots Hall.

Cambridge, meanwhile, are at home to a Newcastle United side two points off the foot of the table and heavily criticised by their manager, Kevin Keegan, at the week-

"The worst injury crisis since I have been at the club," was how he described the situation yesterday after completing the signing of Paul Raynor on a free transfer from Swansea City.

After Saturday's 5-2 defeat at Oxford United, Swindon Town entertain another side with premier League pretensions, Charlton Athletic. Glenn Hoddle, their player-manager, is expected to play his second League game after nearly five months sidelined by injury.

European review and results page 33

Smith: new challenge

Atkinson recalls Barrett

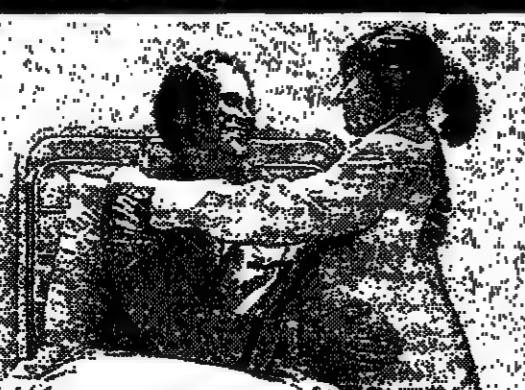
RON Atkinson, the Aston Villa manager, plans to ring the changes for tonight's first division game with Notts County at Meadow Lane in the aftermath of Sunday's FA Cup defeat at Liverpool (Chris Moore writes).

The former Oldham defender, Eam Barrett, Villa's record signing, returns after being clip-died, while Ian Ollie and Simon Frogatt are likely to feature in attack.

"I honestly thought we could have gone the distance in the FA Cup, but now we've got to get back down to bread-and-butter football again," Atkinson said. "We've got 11 League games left, and if we are going to qualify for Europe next season we have got to set our stall to win the lot."

Atkinson has not ruled out strengthening his team further. "If any of the players I have earmarked were to come available before the transfer deadline, I would go for them now," he said, "but I am prepared to wait until the summer."

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Slip fielding: Botham helps Gooch from the Ballarat pitch yesterday after the England captain tore his hamstring against Sri Lanka. Report, page 32

RFU to make it harder for forgers

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

RUGBY union's burgeoning profile, the result of the World Cup tournament last autumn and England's success, has received one totally unwanted seal of success: after several trouble-free years, forged tickets were available before the international matches last Saturday at Twickenham and Murrayfield.

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) believe some 150 forged tickets were circulating before England played Wales, while the Scottish Rugby Union (SRU) suspect that a batch of 500 forgeries, discovered in London, were intended for sale to visiting Murrayfield.

The SRU's security measures ensured only about a dozen tickets turned up on the day of the match. The last occurrence of forgeries at Murrayfield was before the grand-slam decider with

England in 1990, and a spokesman expressed the hope yesterday that next year, with an all-seat stadium, the problem will not recur.

Both in Scotland and England, the forgers were of enclosure tickets, the lowest end of the price range. At Twickenham, the RFU believes 30 or 40 may have entered the ground while about 60 were kept out.

There are three major problem areas with ticketing, Richard Ankerson, the union's ticket manager, said. Lost or stolen tickets, for which duplicates had been issued, tickets "snatched" from their owners in the Twickenham car parks which Ankerson described as a new phenomenon this season and more prevalent before the game against Ireland in February; and, after five trouble-free years, forgeries.

The "model" for the forged tickets used on Saturday was an £8 standing ticket issued to

the Rumbridge Pack club in Southampton. The forgeries were sold on for between £50 and £60.

"We have spent a lot of time and money on security paper, and computer printing has helped, particularly in tracking down the original ticket holders," Ankerson said. "I have spoken to our paper suppliers and to the police and we will incorporate more safety features into the tickets next season."

The RFU is pursuing inquiries into how a £20 ticket issued to the Standard Chartered Bank club was bought by an investigative BBC team for £250. Four other clubs and two schools are being investigated after tickets allocated to them this season turned up on the black market and the union is waiting to see what response their advertisement in the match programme brings for information from people who bought tickets at above face value.

On the credit side, the RFU is looking for the first time at a self-out of the Pilkington Cup final at Twickenham on May 2, even before the semi-finals are played. "We are down to our last few hundred," Ankerson said. "After that, the only way to get tickets will be through the competing clubs in the final."

The semi-finals, Harlequins v Leicester and Gloucester v Bath, will be played on April 4. Each of the finalists receive just under a third of Twickenham's capacity of 60,000, the RFU retaining the rest for sale. So far, the union has taken almost £200,000 and sold nearly 19,000 tickets. The gate receipts for the final this year will be worth £620,000, as against £350,000 for an International and £1.1 million for the World Cup final in last November.

A form of challenge match between England, the five nations' champions, and Australia, the World Cup holders, was ruled out yesterday. Commercial interests had hinted at a re-match of the World Cup final in the wake of England's second successive grand slam, but Wood said: "I think it's fair to say it won't take place."

Cooke reappointed, page 30

Statement on levy imminent

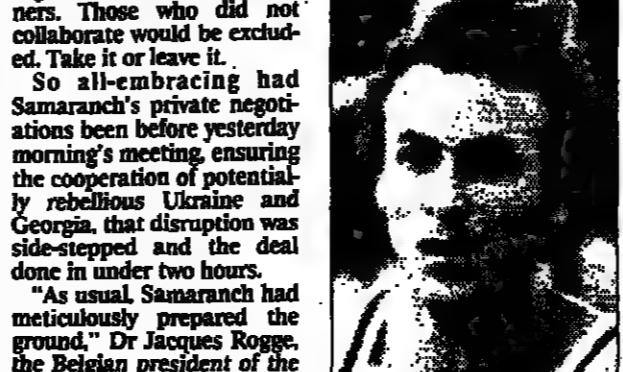
THE home secretary, Kenneth Baker, is expected to announce today how much money the betting industry should return to racing over the next 12 months (Richard Evans writes). His decision will coincide with the opening of the Cheltenham festival — and the Budget.

Baker was called in to determine the levy after bookmakers and the racing industry had failed to agree.

The timing of his announcement could be an attempt to hide bad news for racing on a day when attention will be on the Budget and Cheltenham.

Alternatively, he could be recommending a change to the betting tax system which would need to be confirmed in the Budget speech.

Festival fixtures, page 30-31



Borzov: presentation

IOC places United Team in Barcelona

FROM DAVID MILLER
IN LAUSANNE

DAVID Gobedishvili, a Soviet heavyweight wrestling gold medal-winner in 1988, and Nino Saloukvadze, a gold and silver medal-winner in women's pistol shooting, are two Georgian competitors who epitomise the dilemma faced by the new national Olympic committees of the 12 former Soviet republics. In an individual team, they would probably again win a medal: within a United Team, unanimously but grudgingly agreed here at a meeting of the International Olympic Committee yesterday, they may miss selection. Unlike Sergei Bubka, the Ukrainian pole vault champion.

That is not the only problem facing the now separate nations of the most powerful former sports conglomerate, and the United Team's coordinator, Vitaly Smirnov, the IOC member of the Russian republic. Even more pressing is where to find, within five

months, the \$3.5 million and 250 million roubles necessary to finance a projected team of 510 competitors and 173 officials.

Juan Antonio Samaranch, the IOC president, gave the republics an offer they were unable to refuse: provisional recognition of their NOCs on condition of a United Team under the Olympic flag for the Barcelona Games, with independent flag-raising for individual medal-winners. Those who did not collaborate would be excluded.

So all-embracing had Samaranch's private negotiations been before yesterday morning's meeting, ensuring the cooperation of potentially rebellious Ukraine and Georgia, that disruption was side-stepped and the deal done in under two hours.

"As usual, Samaranch had meticulously prepared the ground," Dr Jacques Rogge, the Belgian president of the European NOCs association (EANOC), said. Rogge and Primo Nebiolo, the president

of the Summer Games association (ASOIF) attended the meeting. Samaranch was able to ride a political challenge yet another awaits him.

The unofficial Catalonia Olympic Committee was watching events and hostile demonstrations are possible at the opening ceremony in Barcelona by separatist political groups. Miguel Abad, the president of Barcelona's organising committee, had

agreed to ride a political challenge yet another awaits him. The unofficial Catalonia Olympic Committee was watching events and hostile demonstrations are possible at the opening ceremony in Barcelona by separatist political groups. Miguel Abad, the president of Barcelona's organising committee, had

made it clear that the United Team did not represent the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), to which some republics' object, but was a purely sporting phenomenon, to accommodate the practicalities of 1992, both among the republics and for the Barcelona Organising Committee.

The difficulty for Georgia



PARENTS

Television and video games empty the playgrounds



LIFE & TIMES

TUESDAY MARCH 10 1992



How the parties spend, spend, spend to buy the vote

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Was there a golden age of television?

Patrick Stoddart
wonders if the medium is suffering from cost cuts, political shifts or plain old age

Each Saturday millions of viewers are putting their TV dinners on their laps and settling down to a feast of Ronnie Barker, *Upstairs, Downstairs*, Ken Dodd, *Edward and Mrs Simpson*... they are in *TV Heaven*, the name given by Channel 4 to its season of ancient and sometimes crumbling television programmes.

To be sure, many of the viewers who tune in to this sight-in are so far past the age of consent they can hardly remember what they were consenting to, but when other channels are showing *Noel Edmonds*, *Family Fortunes* and peak-time repeats of *Columbo*, one does wonder whether there was, after all, a golden age.

Was television better in the 1960s and 1970s, or will we, in 25 years' time, be sitting in front of our 6ft wall screens, watching old episodes of *Bergerac* and muttering the same old mantra? The answer, in both cases, is probably "yes", because many people in television — and not only those who were there when Dixon of Dock Green was a mere constable — find it hard to see how standards can be held even at present levels in an industry becoming convinced that the only line to be remembered is the bottom line.

For some, the strongest evidence of that is the departure of David Plowright from Granada television, maker of those with icons of quality television, *Brideshead Revisited* and *The Jewel in the Crown*. Plowright quit after a disagreement over programme costs, but once he had done his job as a figurehead to help Granada keep its franchise, say the cynical, Plowright had outlived his usefulness anyway.

Bill Cotton, formerly head of light entertainment controller of BBC1 and managing director of BBC TV, is now chairman of the independent production company Noel Gay. If the years that embraced *Aff Garrett*, *The Likely Lads*, *TW3* and *Monty Python* were a golden age, he was one of the people who presided over them, and he says they can never return. "We can't survive by constantly harking back to *Brideshead*," he says, "and there will always be marvellous programmes — look at *The Camomile Lawn*. It's the everyday kind of programmes that are suffering, and it's through them that a climate of excellence is maintained."

"When I started, the opportunity to do things better was still there. Executives made decisions earlier, which gave you more time to think and plan, and longer to produce. The end position for really great motivators, like Huw Wheldon, was that we should make the best programmes we could — not what they cost. These days, too many executives want to keep their options open until the last moment."

One danger, perhaps, is that fewer programmes are now made "in-house". Once upon a golden



Giants of television: from left, the BBC's fiercely competitive Bryan Cowgill and free-thinker Hugh Greene, Huw Wheldon the great motivator, Channel 4's Jeremy Isaacs and Granada's David Plowright

age the BBC and the ITV companies all kept staff large enough to produce everything they needed within their own walls. Programme-makers who knew their incomes and pension funds were taken care of for the next few years could more easily turn their minds to the business of making television programmes. They were also able to inhale the atmosphere of an organisation that made documentaries, dramas, comedy and cricket programmes along the corridor, and the sense of loyalty that induced was awesome — as head of sport, Bryan Cowgill (one of the great BBC movers of the early 1970s) was so competitive that he once refused to acknowledge his opposite number at ITV in a lift.

Then Channel 4 came along to promote excellence outside the walls and commission its entire output from independent sources. Channel 4, first under Jeremy Isaacs and then Michael Grade, certainly threw up new ideas and new people to make them, but now the process has spread.

The government has decreed that both the BBC and ITV must commission a minimum of 25 per cent of their programmes from independents, and many of the new ITV companies which start broadcasting next year will buy in nearly all their material, rather than run their own production operation. The collegiate atmosphere which bred the stuff of *TV Heaven*, in other words, may soon cease to exist.

"As an independent myself these

days," Cotton says, "I'm not going to say we don't know how to make programmes. But young people coming into this business won't be able to gain the experience we did, because they are working in a vacuum, and they never know where their next job is coming from. These days they open the champagne when they get a contract to make something, not when they get it right."

It would be a mistake to believe that television programmes always improve with age. Lambert began her career on *Armchair Theatre*, went on to make *Dr Who*, *The Sweeney* and *Minder*, and is most recently famous for Channel 4's *GBH*. Of *TV Heaven* she says: "Some of it is good, some of it is good and old. And some of it is terribly

old." The grammar of television has changed tremendously, with the constant development of technology, and it would be daft to think you could run even the best television of the 1960s and expect audiences to like it so much. The education bandits have gone too far — young people no longer have the attention span to cope with serious ideas.

What would this mean for such

boundary-breaking drama strands as the BBC's *Play for Today*, or ITV's *Armchair Theatre*? They simply wouldn't be tolerated, says Lambert: "Those departments produced some of the best new writing of their age — playwrights we now consider to be a vital part of the cultural bloodstream. But the public wouldn't turn on a single play nowadays, because they lack the powers of concentration."

That's a generalisation — we were very heartened by the number of young people who liked *GBH*, but that was a serial, which is a more familiar form these days."

She agrees with Cotton, though,

that producers take fewer chances now. "When I began, you were encouraged to be while there are still original, and people within the BBC and Channel 4 trying to do original work, the commercial constraints make that much, much more difficult."

Even if television's problems lie with the rise of the accountant-as-programme-supervisor, many politicised programme-makers (and despite the paranoia of all governments they comprise a tiny minority of executives in television) smell a whiff of Whitehall vengeance in all this, and they may be

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Cars got there first, and not even the best-written diatribe against social injustice could have the impact of *Cathy Come Home*.

And maybe the golden era of television has less to do with the fact that there was more gold about than that there were more good ideas. However hard a time the Dimbleby et al give politicians and businessmen, they cannot shock the nation as profoundly as David Frost did when he submitted *Emil Savundranay* to "trial by television", simply because nobody had ever done it before.

Dennis Potter might still have some great television drama in him, but he wrote his first when television was young, and when there was nothing to compare him to. However good *The Bill* gets, Z

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TOMORROW

Baryshnikov back in Europe

DO YOU REALLY NEED £10 MORE THAN HE DOES?



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Sackcloth (blue) and ashes for Lent

MIDLIFE

Neil Lyndon
ponders the state of his wardrobe



With the first daffodil trumpeting beneath my window, my thoughts turn, temptingly, towards my wardrobe. An adolescent, atavistic voice whispers: "Go on, give that credit card another spin and smarten yourself up. Show them that you're not past it. Deck yourself out in some snappy finery." Lord, give me the strength in this Lenten season to resist this indulgence, eschew this folly. Grant me the wisdom to know that it leads only to embarrassment and yet another blue suit.

From the depths of my true midlife self, I can say that the last thing I want to worry about is clothes. I am at a time of life when I can take a big worry off. I am prepared to shoulder my share of anxiety over European Monetary Union. I do not wish to be troubled by the cut of a lapel. Why, then, do I let it bother my head that I seem to have become a style victim, the object of sniggers among those clever ones up in the Smoke?

Your best friends may be unwilling to tell you about deficiencies in your personal hygiene but mine seem to take a positive delight in telling me that my clothes are a joke. Last summer my sister-in-law said that I had become "a byword for stylelessness". About the same

time, a young woman of fashion told me that the reason she was unwilling to be seen eating her lunch with me was not, primarily, because my opinions about feminism had made me persona non grata in our circle of acquaintances, but because she couldn't bear to look across the table and see me wearing, yet again, one of the Brooks' Brothers button-down numbers I bought in the mid-1980s, believing them to be the last word in cosmopolitan sophistication.

The best place for fashion is off my back. In a Dream State, I would want to put on the first garments which come to hand every morning and I would want them to be the same as yesterday. What I want, in other words, is a habit — a costume of unassailable taste combining a solidly and scholarly restraint with a dash of metropolitan know-how. What I have instead is a rack of dark blues.

For private purposes — days of work at home, weekends, evenings with very close friends, trips to the shops, afternoons in the garden — I have a perfect habit. It has been tried over 30 years. I am it and it is me; and I would no more recognise myself without a bomber jacket (leather or wool), a pair of Levi's, a pair of sneakers, a T-shirt and a thick cotton workshirt than I would feel myself to be properly dressed without a pair of navy blue Marks & Spencer underpants, or the Japanese watch I bought 11 years ago with which I have never found fault. When I am laid out for burial, I expect that those objects will be the last removed from my corpse.

I need something equivalently

uniform, utilitarian, anonymous for my occasional and half-hearted forays abroad into a life which might be termed social. This life nuisance has been nagging at the back of my mind for nearly 20 years, and I can't say that I am any nearer solving it.

In a particularly manic phase of the mid-1970s I did think of designing a costume and having several suits of clothes, all black, made up to the same pattern in wool, cotton and linen to allow for all the seasons. It would be a composite of Dr Jager's system with Shavian cuts and Maoist collars, making me look like a cross between Zhou Enlai and Havelock Ellis. It must have been about that time that I, instead, for my first blue suit.

I have just checked my wardrobe and counted eight suits of dark blue hanging there. The earliest dates from my wedding in 1977. The latest was bought last year when, surrendering to spring fancies, I decided that I should emulate those smart boys I know who were twirling around in their unstructured jackets and wide-legged trousers. I emerged from the shop, nearly £300 lighter, with garments of matching hue which caused my wife to ask: "Did you really need another blue suit?"

TOMORROW
Single life: Lynne Truss

REFLECTED GLORY: Ronald Harwood's new play follows the relationship of two brothers, one a successful restaurateur and the other a plain man. It stars Michael Pennington and Stephen Moore in the leading roles under the direction of Elyot Meschini. Theatre Royal, New West, Brighton (0273 28488). Runs to March 22.

DEATH IN VENICE: British Tenor opens in his first production by Colin Graham, who was also responsible for the very first production at Aldeburgh in 1973. Stuart Bedford conducts (at that Aldeburgh occasion), and the cast includes Philip Langridge, Christopher Alan Oates as the Trimmer and Michael Chance as the Voice of Apollo. John Piper's original designs are used for the projections. Opening night.

Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071 240 1066/1911), 7.30pm.

STREET SCENE: David Pountney's production of the street-life opera by Kurt Weill returns to the English National Opera's repertoire in a new staging by Nicolas Mohr. Janice Dean, Michael Pennington, Mark Richardson is her brutal husband. Frank and Lesley Garrett direct. Mezzo James Holmes conducts. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (071 936 3161, co 071 240 8288), 7.30pm.

BANDINHOS: The respected piano-instrument ensemble presents music for wind instruments by Vivaldi, two sonatas for flutes and continuo by Alfonso Ferrer, and Sonatas for viola da gamba and harpsichord. Purcell Room, South Bank, London SE1 (071 828 8600), 8pm.

ANGELS IN AMERICA: Strong performances in Tony Kushner's long and vigorous drama. AIDS, religion, politics, everything. National Theatre, South Bank, SE1 (071 923 2252). Tonight, 7.30pm. 210 mins.

LA BETE: Brevers performance by Alan Cumming in a strange Molère parody: eccentric but clever. Lyric Theatre, Drury Lane, W1 (071 741 2211). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm, 5.30pm. Final week.

CASABR AND CLEOPATRA: Alec McCowen and Amanda Root in a disappointingly flat version of Shaw's anti-war comedy. Royal Court, Greenwich, Croon's Bar, SE10 (081 858 7768). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm, Sun, 4pm, 5.30pm.

THE COTTON CLUB: An impression of the Harlem nightspot: high on energy, low on story. Andrew Lloyd Webber's score. Almeida, Old Street, W1 (071 404 5085). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm, 5.30pm.

DANCING AT LUGHNASA: Brian Friel's Oliver Award-winning memory-play, set in Threave Donegal. Lyric Theatre, Drury Lane, W1 (071 404 5085). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm, 5.30pm.

DEATH AND THE MAIDEN: Juliet Stevenson, Michael Byrne, Bill Paterson superb in Arif Derman's Chilean political drama. Best play of 1991. Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071 404 5085). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm, 5.30pm.

AN EVENING WITH GARY LINKE: Some scenes look at the foibles of a woman married to a soccer nut. Duchess, Catherine Street, WC2 (071 404 5085). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm, 5.30pm.

FROM A JACK TO A KING: Why and wherefore of Mamet's climb to the top, set in the world of rock bands and packed with Sardis songs. Edward, Writers' Court, off Peter Street, W1 (071 404 5085). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm, 5.30pm.

GOOD ROCKIN' TONITE: Satisfying musical celebrating R&B and Blues play classics. Great Stuff, Strand, Aldwych, WC2 (071 340 0300). Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 8.30pm and 9.30pm.

NEW RELEASES: CAPE FEAR (18): Demonic ex-con Robert De Niro terrorises Nick Nolte and Jamie Lee Curtis' career. With a gripping thriller, with Jeanne Moreau, Julian Lewis. Empire (071 407 0008) Michael Caine and Helen Mirren in a gripping thriller. With Helen Mirren, Michael Caine. Royal (071 370 2030) MGM Thesaurus (071 434 0031) Screen on the Green (071 228 3860) Whitley's (071 702 3332).

ONCE UPON A CRIME (PG): Vacuous comedy about America's most Carlo Rubbia. A dour and deadened lead body. Starring John Candy, James Belushi, Sean Young, Richard Lewis, Cybill Shepherd; director, Eugene Levy. Odeon West End (0438 916574).

CURRENT: AFRAID OF THE DARK (18): Mark Peplow's clever but disagreeable psychological thriller about fear and loathing. With Pauline Kael, James Fox, Perry Arntz. MGM Haymarket (071 538 1627).

BARTON FINK (18): The Coen brothers' marvellous macabre comedy about New York playwright all set at a hotel in Los Angeles. Starring John Goodman, John Goodman. A triple Cannes prizewinner. Empire (071 227 4043) Lumière (071 328 0581) Screen on the Green (071 434 0031) Screen on the Green (071 228 3860) Whitley's (071 702 3332).

A BLACK ROBE (18): Seventeenth-century Joseph (Lorraine Bracco) tries to convert heretic Quebec. Intelligent epic from Brian Moore's adaptation. Directed by Odile Kerssenberg (0428 514068) Plaza (071 407 0059).

ENTERTAINMENTS: ME AND MY GIRL: THE LAMBERTS' WALK: Nightly at 7.30pm. Wed 8pm. Sat 8.30pm. THE HONEY SHOW IN TOWN: Sunday Express.

ALBERT: 071 867 1115 fr 8.30pm 1111/579 4444/97 9977 no big fee. Groups 930 6123.

BUCKSHIRE: TOWER: Tuesdays 8.30pm. Sat 8.30pm. Sun 2pm. weekly show Sunday Times.

LONDON'S HOT NEW HIT: Tues 8.30pm. Sat 8.30pm. Sun 2pm. weekly show Sunday Times.

THE COTTON CLUB: "Leisurely production" Friday 8pm. Sat 8pm. Sun 2pm. EXCEPT 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th, 131st, 132nd, 133rd, 134th, 135th, 136th, 137th, 138th, 139th, 140th, 141st, 142nd, 143rd, 144th, 145th, 146th, 147th, 148th, 149th, 150th, 151st, 152nd, 153rd, 154th, 155th, 156th, 157th, 158th, 159th, 160th, 161st, 162nd, 163rd, 164th, 165th, 166th, 167th, 168th, 169th, 170th, 171st, 172nd, 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Monarch at home in the glens

Andrew Gibbon Williams on two Scottish exhibitions of watercolours originally commissioned by Queen Victoria

Beneath the surface of the recent television documentary *Elizabeth R* the essential Scotsness of the Windsor clan pulsed like a pedal note. The Queen was caught in relaxed and cheerful mood introducing her grandchildren to pony trekking at Balmoral; at the Gillies' Ball she proved herself to be a premier division eightsome reeler.

The Queen Mother, a born and bred Scot, is largely responsible for encouraging the present Royal Family in its Scottish predilections. But the tradition actually dates back to the youthful Victoria's discovery of the Highlands in the 1840s. By the middle of the next decade the Queen and Prince Consort were able to *holiday en famille* in the baronial home they had built for themselves on Deeside. Decked out in assored tartans, thistle-strewn chintzes everywhere, the concept of "Balmorality" was born.

Several views of Balmoral's interiors are included in an absorbing exhibition of watercolours at the Queen's official Scottish residence the Palace of Holyroodhouse. Inspired by an album of watercolours given to them by King Louis Philippe as a momento of their visit to Paris in 1843, Victoria and Albert began commissioning pictures of their own numerous homes. These they assembled into bound volumes, which accounts for their excellent state of preservation. By the time of the Prince Consort's death in 1861 there were some 600 or so individual pictures contained in nine albums.

Predictably, the overwhelming impression is one of breathtaking opulence. A post-christening banquet in the Picture Gallery at Buckingham Palace is interpreted by the Belgian artist Louis Haghe as a luminous fairytale, the dazzle of gasoliers and candlelight creating an ethereal effect.

Gold plate on show for the Garner Banquet shimmers against the Gothic tracery of St George's Hall, Windsor, in Joseph Nash's

depiction of the arrival of the French king. Uniforms and crinolines jostle on the Grand Staircase of Buckingham Palace in a frothy roccoco scene painted by Eugène Lami, Louis Philippe's court painter.

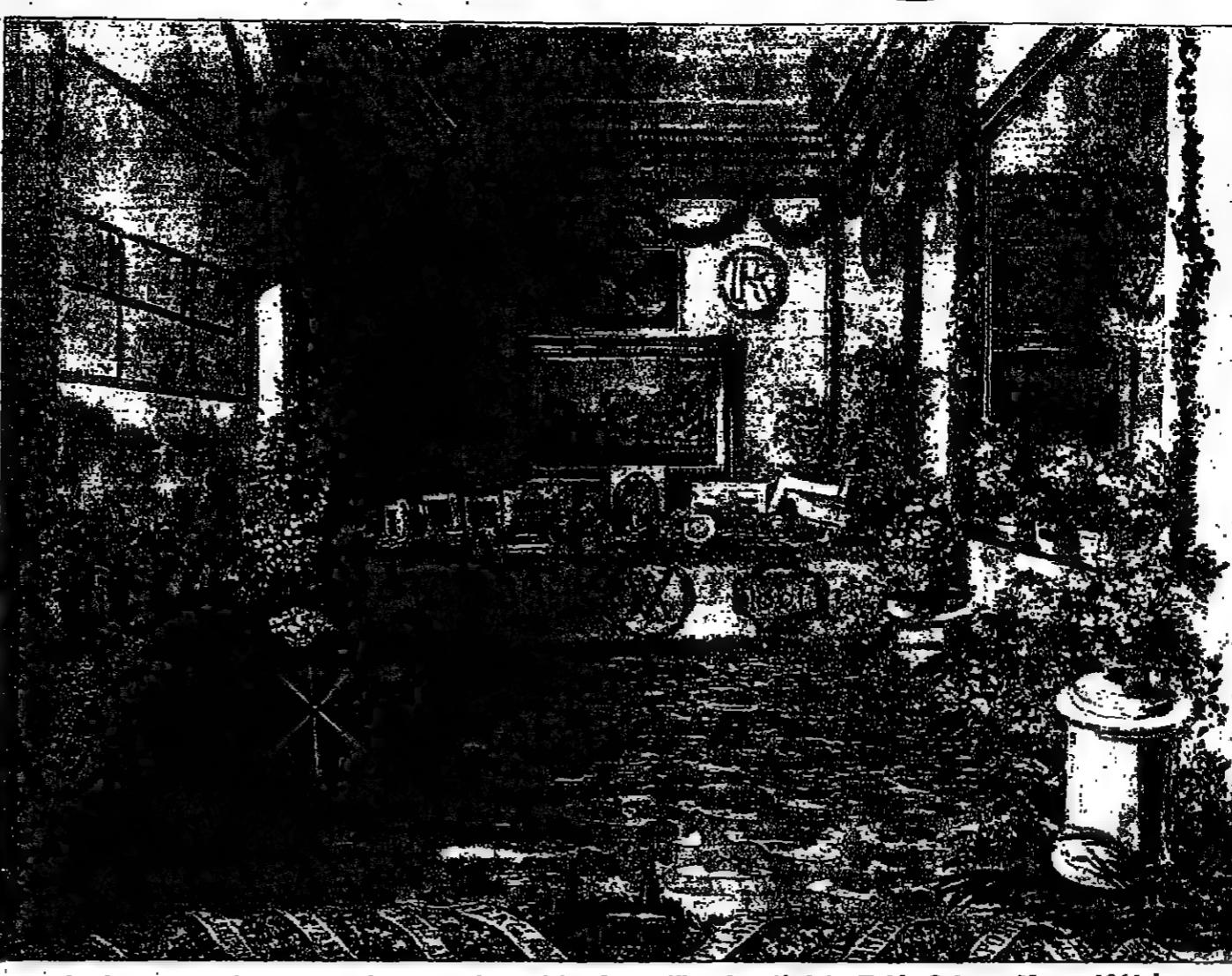
More compelling, however, are the interiors in which stray domestic details impart an intimate sense of everyday habitation to a room. A baby's highchair and toy horse, for example, strike a surreal note against the chinoiserie of the Pavilion Breakfast Room at Buckingham Palace. Much as Victoria abhorred the morals and taste of the Regent she evidently felt happy enough to allow her children to play amidst his gaudy fantasy.

Numbing the carefree spirit which predominates in the majority of watercolours, however, is the morbid sentimentality which has correctly become synonymous with the *Widow of Windsor*. Festooned with flowers, the Queen's birthday display at Osborne looks, ironically, like a modern funeral parlour; a little more than six months later, Albert was dead. George Greig's watercolours of Holyroodhouse, commissioned as a memorial to the Prince, are fittingly sombre although, it should be said, the Queen always found her apartment there gloomy.

As for taste in décor, a heavy-handed eclecticism is remarkable in most of the original Victorian interiors. For the swaggering grandeur against which most state occasions were conducted Victoria was indebted to that most enthusiastic of Royal interior decorators, George IV. When she and Albert did it their way, as at Balmoral, they achieved a kind of bizarre, gaudy vulgarity.

For aficionados of tartan there is a further treat at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery where Queen Victoria's obsessive desire to catalogue every aspect of her life is epitomised in an exhibition of watercolour portraits by Kenneth MacLeay.

Victoria's adoration of her



Opulence touched by a sense of everyday domesticity: *Queen Victoria's Birthday Table, Osborne House, 1861*, by James Roberts. Reproduced by gracious permission of the Queen. Original in the Royal Library at Windsor Castle

Highlanders is well known. In her recusive years of unpopularity, scurrilous rumours circulated about her relationship with her strong-minded servant John Brown. In the 1860s she commissioned MacLeay, whose career as a miniaturist had been subverted by the advent of photography, to paint her favourite Highland retainers. Eventually the project blossomed into a full-scale encyclopedic survey of the clans, which was published to great acclaim in the 1870s as *The Highlanders of Scotland*.

It is not difficult to sympathise

with the Queen's admiration for MacLeay; he succeeds in conveying striking likenesses of his subjects: accuracy of form and truth of character are there in equal measure.

MacLeay's bravura watercolour technique, however, disguises a subtler, more profound art than might be inferred from the Highlanders series. For MacLeay was — as the gallery's new informative monograph describes — a member of that other populous clan: Victorian artists whom fate decreed would never fulfil their potential. Anger and penury being

thrown in just for good measure. Several tiny miniatures, a particularly fine one of Jane Baillie Welsh, future wife of Thomas Carlyle (testify to MacLeay's precocious ability and the dual influence of Raeburn and Lawrence. In his line there is a sensitivity which is reminiscent of Ingres, with whose pencil drawings of tourists in Rome, which were made half a century earlier, MacLeay's portraits can be seen to have much in common.

Ultimately though, he deserves to be left in the historical niche which the colleague who recom-

mended him for his *magnum opus*, Noel Paton, carved out for him is the "Highlander of the Highlands".

• Royal residences of the Victorians in exhibition at the Palaces of Holyroodhouse, Edinburgh (031-556 1096), continues until March 21. Mon-Sat 9.30am-5pm. This year can be seen at Aberdeen Art Gallery from May 30 to August 29.

• Kenneth MacLeay: landscapes, portraits and miniatures, at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery, Edinburgh (031-356 8922), continues until April 20. Open Mon-Sat 10am-5pm. Sunday 2-5pm.

ARTS BRIEF

Surprise in store

AS THIS year's Towards the Millennium gets under way, plans for next year are emerging. Since 1993 will be year three of the decade-long festival, the spotlight will be on the 1920s, with once again the London Sinfonietta, the CBSO and Simon Rattle making the music. Stravinsky, Bartók, Gershwin and Varese are inevitable choices, but there are also nice surprises, such as the pairing of late Ravel (*L'enfant et les sortileges* with Elsie Ross) and schoolboy Britten (*Four French Songs*, with Amanda Roach). Once again the festival will be held, next spring, in Birmingham, Cardiff and London.

Much as you like
TWO years ago everybody seemed to be performing *King Lear*. This summer the chic Shakespeare play is *As You Like It*. Not only is it opening at Stratford-on-Avon on April 22, with Samantha Bond as Rosalind, there is a revival with Jemma Redgrave at Greenwich on May 4, and now another at the Open Air, Regent's Park, on June 16, with a still unannounced actress in the lead.

Last chance...

IT TOOK 80 years for Franz Schreker's opera *Der ferne Klang* to reach this country, and the scale of the piece, with dozens of roles and a lavish orchestra, places it in altogether more opulent times than these. The dreamy music, wandering between Strauss and Puccini, is passionately conveyed under Paul Daniel in Opera North's production. Final performance: Saturday at Manchester's Palace Theatre (061-236 9922).

These are unsettling times for English cricket fans, not least because the chaps actually seem to be winning, down there in Van Keatingland, which if nothing else will teach these Colonial Johnnies a lesson in good manners. Mess with Her Majesty, and you answer to Ian Botham.

What makes it all so confusing is that nothing is as it was — a grave crisis for those who love something as notionally permanent as cricket. For instance, as we are not seeing our English boys... well, our English, West Indian, Zimbabwean and South African boys... do the honours on the BBC, how can you be sure that they really did beat Australia last Thursday morning?

You can if you have satellite television, of course, but that still counts only for a minority of us, and those pubs that boast satellite sports channels probably weren't open at

JAZZ RECORDS

Before they could croon

Jazz, or funk, or pop? The quibbling over the guitarist Ronny Jordan has come to a head in the past month thanks to an extremely astute publicity campaign by his record company. These are the same people, remember, who brought up the multi-media phenomenon called Courtney Pine.

A young north Londoner who saw the light when he stumbled across a Wes Montgomery album, Jordan is being talked about

everywhere, or so it seems. After a Top 40 hit with a version of Miles Davis's "So What", he is currently on the road as support act with Barry White.

After all the hullabaloo, *The*



Nat King Cole: first made his name as a piano player

Antidote turns out to be an energetic and unpredictable debut, aimed much more at the dance audience than the committed jazzier.

"So What" makes another appearance allied with fluid guitar work and some unexpected excursions into rap. Overall, the drum programmers appear to have had the upper hand in the studio, leaving little room in which the musicians can manoeuvre.

Beware the small print at the bottom of the sleeve of the new Nat King Cole compilation: the emphasis is on "instrumental classics" rather than his vocal prowess. That is reasonable enough, since Cole first made his name as a piano player. The hit songs came somewhat later.

As a soloist, he was among the most influential players in the transitional period between swing and bop. His use of the piano-guitar-bass format (which, according to legend, came about by accident after a drummer failed to show up for an engagement) also inspired many imitators. The approach is faithfully documented on the Capitol set, with a dash of Latin percussion added on the later tracks.

The career of Harry Connick Jr seems to be following a similar trajectory to Cole's, a point which is highlighted by the re-issue of the 1987 debut album, a non-vocal collection which was previously available on import only.

Considering he was still in his teens at the time, these are exceptionally sophisticated and varied performances. Note the mature interpretation of a difficult Monk tune, "I Mean You". Recommended for those who are still sceptical of Connick the crooner.

CLIVE DAVIS

LONDON CONCERTS

Good company

EACH year at Lockenhaus, in the Burgenland area of Austria, Gidon Kremer gathers friends around him to play chamber music. These various groups, which from this year go under the rather ugly name of Kremerata Musica, are distinguished by a unique guiding spirit. Kremer's art is an open-minded, co-operative one. He needs the stimulus of interplay with others, and he is far too intelligent to be satisfied merely with the challenges of the standard handful of concertos which alone could provide him with a handsome living.

In this concert at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, with a company consisting of himself, clarinetist Sabine Meyer, cellist Clemens Hagen and pianist Oleg Maisenberg, he began with Olivier Messiaen's touching *Hirondelles*, an elegy to a young flute player killed in the Arab-Israeli conflict, with great beauty and sensitivity, just avoiding, as the piece itself just avoids, falling into sentimentality.

Often the performance touched the sublime, though there were times — particularly in the earlier ensemble movements — when the marriage of talents did not work quite perfectly.

Meyer's control of dynamic and timbre in "Abyss of the Birds" was exemplary, as were Hagen's bow control, singing tone and breathtaking long diminuendo in "Praise to the eternity of Jesus". But Kremer himself gave the "Praise to the immortality of Jesus" with a spiritual intensity that elevated the reading to another plane.

With Hagen, violinist Annette Blik and viola player Catherine Metz, Kremer then went on to tackle Schubert's final string quartet, Op 161 in G. Perhaps a quartet who had lived longer together would have taken a less

rough, more spacious approach to its faster movements, and the blend of instruments would also have been more satisfying — Kremer is not one to cocoon his brightish tone in cotton wool, even in circumstances such as these which would seem to require it — but the reading displayed admirable impetus and much instinctive wisdom.

The following evening at the Festival Hall witnessed another episode in the revitalisation of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra under the guidance of its American principal conductor, Andrew Litton.

It is an excellent policy for any orchestra to give its principal players the chance to shine, and the BSO's experienced faustus, Karen Jones, played Bernstein's touching *Hirondelles*, an elegy to a young flute player killed in the Arab-Israeli conflict, with great beauty and sensitivity, just avoiding, as the piece itself just avoids, falling into sentimentality.

After that, André Watts's strongly voiced version of Beethoven's Fourth Piano Concerto seemed rather on the massive side. But the sense of narrative was compelling, the colours vivid if sometimes hard, and no gesture was made unthinkingly.

Litton and the Bournemouth players really came into their own, however, in a wonderful realisation of Elgar's First Symphony. The quality of the orchestra's string playing was extremely pleasing, while Litton's deep knowledge of and affection for this score brought out many fresh intricacies of detail. Above all, though, this was a performance of substance and concentrated strength.

STEPHEN PETITT

• Science and Technology, page 6

NIGEL HAWKES

RADIO

Coming into its own on an Antipodean cricket pitch

6am last Thursday, when Captain Gooch was turning a corner of a foreign cricket field into something forever (or at least for the time being) England.

This, of course, is where radio comes into its own. If you did happen to be watching on Sky Sports, you'd have been told that the official World Cup radio station was Capital Gold, which is fine if you happen to live in the London area and don't mind getting your cricket scores from Tony Blackburn, with summaries from David Hamilton.

You can if you have satellite television, of course, but that still counts only for a minority of us, and those pubs that boast satellite sports channels probably weren't open at

the latest state of play, you had only to turn to the *Today* programme on Radio 4, where Brian Redhead delivered the news with the kind of glee he normally reserves for ten-mile tailbacks on the M61.

Purists, of course, know exactly what to do — they turn to Radio 3. But what did we get on Radio 3 last Thursday morning? We got classical music, by all that's holy! Bizet, Schubert, some fellow called François — it was 8.30 in the morning before they even played something English, although even Thomas Tallis's *Lamentations of Jeremiah* had nothing on the lamentations of Allan Border.

However, if you have the good fortune to live outside London and simply wanted

and where were we to hear those?

Mercifully, a perfectly-modulated Radio 3 announcer was on hand to remind diehards that, in a break with tradition equalled only by the result of the match itself, ball-by-ball World Cup commentary was now to be heard on the new-fangled Radio 5, half a twiddle along the dial on medium wave. And there it was, as loud and clear as a Phil Tufnell lbw appeal.

Midday, at what we might call the *Song Tree* — it was lunch in Sydney, we got neither a little light music nor Brian Johnston chewing the cud with the captain of the 1925

Indian tourists, but Danny Baker gibbering in what can only have been code, promising to shut up when the cricket was due to start.

And when it did, the overs were punctuated not only by Australian summarisers trying to put the hex on England's batsmen by saying how well they were playing,

but also by Radio 5 announcers promising teachers that *Listening and Reading*, *Wiggy Park* and *The Song Tree* would be on after the cricket, and they should consult their classroom notes for further details.

Oh well, we'll all get used to this, now that the BBC has finally severed the Gordian

PATRICK STODDART

TELEVISION

Odd life of an enigma

Alan Turing has always been a fascinating figure. Gauche, eccentric, and homosexual, he emerged from an uncomprehending public school as a mathematician of genius. At Cambridge and later as a leading member of the code-breaking team at Bletchley Park, he blazed fiercely for a few brilliant years, then died alone biting into an apple laced with cyanide.

Drawing on Andrew Hodges's superb biography of Turing, recently republished by Vintage, Horizon last night on BBC 2 told the story of an odd life. Photographs of Turing are plentiful few and films non-existent. His greatest achievements are difficult to convey, residing as they do in the world of mathematical logic and cryptography.

Fortunately for producer Christopher Sykes, there are survivors who remember Turing as an endearing colleague, including a fellow worker at Bletchley Park, Joan Clarke, to whom he became engaged before wiser thoughts prevailed. A profoundly honest man, he made no secret to her of his sexual leanings, though to describe them as "tendencies" might have been understanding it a bit. Few other colleagues had any idea, which is fortunate, because a positive voting system that had excluded Turing from secret work would have denied Britain the vital insights which helped break the Enigma code and win the war.

Later, after Turing had joined the National Physical Laboratory in the expectation that he would be allowed to build Britain's first electronic computer with his own hands and left in indignation when he found he was only expected to design it, he did come into painful contact with the law.

Answering a charge of gross indecency with a young man, he jovially remarked to a friend that the worst he could get was seven years, while doing the same thing with a sheep might have earned him ten. In fact, he was put on probation on condition that he was treated with hormones designed to kill his interest in sex.

He left no explanation for his death. Was he fed up with the futile pursuit of the police, anxious to trap him into fresh indiscretions? Did he, as one friend suggests, simply recognise that his days as a creative mathematician were probably over? Or was it, as his mother always believed, an accident resulting from his notoriously careless style of conducting experiments?

The mystery of Turing's death has burned his reputation: those who die young are frozen in time before wrinkles and mental decay can do their dread work. But there was something special about the man, a very English combination of innocence, gallantry and wisdom lightly-borne.

His education, though haphazard and badly matched to his talents, left him with an imaginative freedom that might have been suppressed in a more conventionally-coached boy. At King's College Cambridge he found the environment where his genius could find expression.

Horizon made a brave and largely successful effort to convey the essence of Turing's life. Last November, the first competition to measure the intelligence of a computer program — based on a test devised by Turing — was held in Boston. He over-optimistically predicted that by the end of the century a computer would successfully counterfeit the behaviour of a human being.

Nobody ever seems likely to set out to mimic the strange combination of qualities that made Turing so remarkable. Human genius comes in many forms, few as enigmatic as the young mathematician who first conceived the idea of a stored-program computer. There are no memorials to Turing: they are all about us.

NIGEL HAWKES

Royal Academy of Arts until 5 April 1992



Playing for time in childhood

A new study of 500 schoolchildren claims that after the age of eight boys and girls rarely come out to play with toys any more, preferring to sit in front of a computer or TV screen. When they do play, they are in a violent mood. Alexandra King reports

Do you know what your children are playing — and should you care? No and yes, according to a new study of 500 children between the ages of seven to 14.

The researchers went into the playground to observe the games children play, as well as questioning them about their play and television viewing habits at home. The results of two years of interviews and observation by Elizabeth Stutz, the founder of the Norwich-based national charity Play For Life, may confirm some parents' fears that the end of childhood — as we like to think we knew it — is nigh.

"Soon after the age of eight, play with toys stops," Mrs Stutz found, "and 65 per cent of the children take up computer games and electronic entertainments — which includes watching soap operas on television." If this survey is to be believed, it would appear that by the age of ten it is common for children to own the complete range of electronic equipment, and from the age of 11 60 per cent may spend much of their spare time at amusement arcades, shops and discos.

Seventy-three per cent of the sample, taken from state schools in the Norwich area, played in amusement arcades, 82 per cent watched videos and 80 per cent choose programmes "based on horror, violence and crime". Seventy-two per cent of the boys enjoyed being involved in a fight or watching others fight — and 56 per cent said they wanted a real gun when they were grown up (compared to 13 per cent of girls).

The survey was carried out by a Quaker-backed organisation dedicated to campaigning for "life affirming" toys and games, so some might say it set out simply to confirm pre-existing prejudices. But Mrs Stutz, a retired educationalist who used to teach teenagers in inner city schools, says her recorded interviews and photographs let the children speak for themselves without her often emotive interpretation.

The children (and in some cases their parents) answered simple questions such as "Where do you spend your spare time? Which of the following outdoor games do you do? What are your hobbies?" plus the occasional "loaded" question such as "Did you enjoy shooting games? Would you like to have a real gun when you are older?"

Mrs Stutz, who started Play For Life nine years ago shortly after she became a grandmother, is

passionate about her findings, which are the result of two years of work in often awkward circumstances. ("Watching or photographing children immediately arouses suspicion, and a photographer unwittingly and unwillingly finds her or himself in the role of a voyeur," she notes — a fact which, in itself, she finds a sad sign of the times.)

Dolls were the most popular plaything for girls — particularly fashion dolls such as Sindy and Barbie — followed by that more recent hardy perennial, My Little Pony. The boys' favourites were action figures ("with bulging muscles, striking combative poses", Mrs Stutz editorialises) and Lego

The girls seemed well integrated with their friends, whereas with the boys there did not seem to be any genuine camaraderie'

— which, she claims, "is often used for making guns, forts and other objects needed for war games", although it would be exceedingly difficult to make a Lego gun.

But while the answers to her questions for the most part merely confirmed Mrs Stutz's suspicions that today's children are too much under the influence of violent video games and television — she was simply not sure how much equals too much — her observations of the children at play brought some surprises.

"I discovered that when children were in the playground, away from the lure of these electronic devices, they were playing the sort of games which children have been playing since the beginning of time," she says — tag and piggy-back, leapfrog and skipping games, and "puppy-like rough and tumble which is good-natured and not to be classified as a form of violence".

She also discovered that boys and girls divided sharply in the types of playground games they played, with girls socialising and

co-operating while boys were competitive and hostile. The girls formed cosy little circles or knots, facing into the centre — often for singing, rhyming and hand-clapping games — while the boys dispersed and played ball and chasing games. Only occasionally did they mix, when she noticed girls teaching boys their games — but not the other way around.

"The girls seemed well integrated with their friends, whereas with the boys there did not seem to be any genuine camaraderie," she says. "And while some of their games might spring from the imagination, the boys' accounts indicate that in fact most of their imaginative games are based on TV serials or videos containing a substantial element of violence."

Mrs Stutz credits the girls' doll play with helping them to socialise at an early age, whereas the boys' games, she fears, teach them to regard others as enemies or rivals.

"It may be of significance," she suggests, "that in the group aged eight and nine — the only group in which boys stated they had played with dolls, boy dolls — there was the lowest percentage taking karate classes, watching videos and playing in amusement arcades, and the highest percentage keeping pets."

"I didn't put a question on fear into the questionnaire, but I discovered from talking to the children that many had a great fear of some of the things they were watching — but were afraid of seeming scared," Mrs Stutz says.

One boy said he watched horror videos but admitted: "I like them, I think they're funny, but afterwards I have nightmares... I won't let my children watch them." Another talked cheerfully of a game which involved "killing all your friends to win the woman".

But boys have been boys since time immemorial, and — as Dr Jacqueline Jukes, the author of a recently published report on children and aggression, notes — "a child will make guns out of sticks to play violent games if nothing else is available".

Is Mrs Stutz really suggesting that we should go back to the supposedly good old days when children played with rag dolls and sang "Ring a Ring o' Roses" — originally, of course, a rather grim ritualistic chant to ward off the plague? "No," she says. "We can't go back. But children instinctively

play things that are inherent in human nature, and it is up to parents and teachers to encourage the positive, creative and constructive elements of that nature."

There are, of course, many useful ways of using computers. The problem is that computers are very seductive, and children spend too long sedentary, simply staring at a screen using keys, when they should be experiencing social intercourse and relationships and developing emotional responses and craft skills and outdoor activi-

ties. That world is becoming totally lost to them."

Her report offers suggestions for constructive play and for schemes which should benefit all children — even those who still enjoy the occasional violent video game. Play acting, puppetry, singing, skating, fishing, cycling, dancing, craftwork, nature trails, social clubs and adventure playgrounds are all advocated, and Mrs Stutz commends Norwich city council for its tree planting scheme involving schoolchildren

— and for involving them in researching play equipment.

While it is suddenly fashionable for adults to try to encourage "the child within them" (typified by Elizabeth Taylor, who recently held her sixtieth birthday party at DisneyLand), children are losing their childhood, Mrs Stutz warns.

"Play for Life hopes to start a centre for creative activities to encourage such play skills in children and adults," she says.

"because people of all ages can play. It might take them away

from the screen and reintroduce peaceful activities into homes."

● Play For Life will be holding its AGM and a day of workshops on "Children and the world we live in" on Saturday March 21 at the American Church, 79 Tottenham Court Road, London W1. Admission £13 to non-members, £8 for the first child and £5 for additional children. Further details — and copies of the report "What Are They Doing Now?" (£4.95 including postage) from Play for Life, 318 Ipswich Road, Norwich NR2 2LN (0603 505947).

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Playgrounds for today: the study found that the boys were competitive and hostile, dispersing and playing ball and chasing games...



...while the girls formed cosy little circles or knots, facing into the centre, often for singing, rhyming and hand-clapping games

Baby baby-minders

Can anyone tell exactly when a child is mature enough to be a babysitter?

Last week, a child of 12 was convicted of manslaughter. She had been hired to babysit an 18-month-old and his sister of four: when the little boy cried persistently, the child babysitter lost control, shaking and smothering him. The mother had employed her in the belief that she was 13 rather than 11 at the time.

But is even 13 old enough? Childless people, unfamiliar with the muddled, makeshift, idiosyncratic underworld of babysitting, may well have raised an eyebrow. Is it normal for a child two years out of primary school to be entrusted with sole charge of a house in the evening, let alone of infants? Is it common, is it even legal?

The answer is yes. The Citizens Advice Bureaux and the National Children's Bureau (NCB) confirm that, contrary to popular belief, it is perfectly legal not to have a babysitter at all. Any worried citizen who has ever lingered fretfully in a car-park watching a hot, imprisoned infant on someone else's back seat can tell you that. So can anyone who has vainly tried to interest the police in the unattended, howling pram in next door's garden.

"There is a common myth that you can't leave children alone under 13," Alison Forbes of the NCB says. "But it is untrue. The whole issue is very vague: in the public setting there are endless rules, but nothing to regulate who looks after them at home. Except commonsense and the parents' judgment about the maturity of an individual child." I could find no baby book which addresses the question of how old a teenage babysitter ought to be: indeed several positively recommend teenagers, even for young babies. The mother of the victim in last week's case was a nursery nurse: to her 13 seemed reasonable.

So it does for countless others. If you have an idea that this is some

Baby-sit girl, aged 11, killed child who cried

THE TIMES FRIDAY MARCH 6 1992

Danger at home: a question of control

By Peter Davenport

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THE TIMES FRIDAY MARCH 6 1

Who is the healthiest of them all?

On Super Tuesday in the American presidential race, Victoria McKee reports on the importance of fitness to rulers

Martial fidelity, sexual harassment and the state of the economy aside, the biggest issue in the forthcoming American election will be health. The health of the candidates that is. So says Professor Herbert Abrams, an authority on the health of world leaders and its impact on what he calls "crisis decision-making in the nuclear age".

Paul Tsongas, a Democratic contender, has made fitness part of his campaign, being photographed in his swimming trunks to prove that despite treatment for lymphoma nine years ago he is fit to govern. But it is the health of jogging George Bush and the role of his vice-president, Dan Quayle, if Mr Bush should be stricken, that concerns Professor Abrams.

The professor has just had a book published in the United States about the circumstances surrounding the assassination attempt on Ronald Reagan a decade ago, and the relevance of the shooting to the current campaign.

In the book, *The President Has Been Shot* (WW Norton), Professor Abrams demonstrates how a drugged-up president who lost nearly half the blood in his body still technically had his finger on the nuclear button and argues for the proper use of the 25th Amendment to the Constitution. According to the never-invoked amendment, the vice-president should be declared "acting president" if a president is temporarily incapacitated.

After President Reagan was shot on 30 March, 1981, Alexander Haig, the secretary of state, claimed: "I am control here in the White House pending return of the vice-president." But Professor Abrams says the succession order should have run "from the president to vice-president, speaker of

the house, president *pro tempore* of the Senate and only then to the secretary of state and other members of the cabinet".

Professor Abrams has enjoyed unprecedented access to the medical records and personal physicians of George Bush and to the records of previous American presidents for a massive study he is compiling on the health of world leaders and its impact on decision-making. He believes that the present incumbent is in danger of crippling his party's prospects because of lack of public confidence in his health after his hospitalisation for heart fibrillations and his startling collapse in Japan.

"This is because the American public has no faith in Dan Quayle, and there is a sudden realisation that who the vice-president is really matters," says Professor Abrams, who holds dual appointments at the Stanford University School of Medicine and Stanford Center for International Security and Arms Control.

"I've been on talk-shows and radio phone-ins recently and I keep getting questions about what would happen if George Bush had a heart attack. Would they evoke the 25th Amendment? Would Dan Quayle become acting president?"

"If the president jettisons Quayle, people may see it as his understanding of the nation's concern, but they might see it as confirmation that he is worried about his health — and the right wing of the Republican Party would not be happy. If he keeps Quayle, the Quayle Factor — and the president's health — will certainly be a big issue."

Mr Quayle came within a heart-beat of being made acting president. Professor Abrams believes, when President Bush was about to be taken in for defibrillatory shock



Focus on fitness: Paul Tsongas, a Democratic contender for the presidency, may sink or swim according to how healthy an image he can project to the public

metabolism can affect the personality," Professor Abrams says.

But then Professor Abrams believes that John F. Kennedy's decision-making abilities were marred by steroids he was taking, and that neither Winston Churchill nor Franklin Roosevelt was in good enough health to govern through times of crisis.

More recently, Professor Abrams suggests that the complete destruction of President Bush's hyperactive thyroid which was causing the condition and his thyroxin replacement therapy may have affected his "disorganized approach" to the threat of Pat Buchanan in the current campaign. "Any serious change in

treatment since the drugs he had been prescribed did not seem to be working. However the drugs worked in time to render anaesthesia unnecessary and the opportunity to test the 25th Amendment had passed.

He can tell you, in an instant, how many American presidents (eight) and Soviet general secretaries (four) have had heart conditions while in office, and how many had cerebral haemorrhages while in office (three Americans

and two Soviets). His book also lists the presidents this century who had high blood pressure and gastro-intestinal diseases — and who underwent surgery without relinquishing leadership.

The 25th Amendment was prompted by Eisenhower's surgery for an intestinal obstruction and stroke in 1957, but did not become law until 1967. In Britain, according to a Downing Street spokesman, the position is that the prime minister is prime minister whether in Downing Street or in

hospital. If a prime minister were to drop dead, the cabinet would meet under the chairmanship of its most senior member, or the Lord Chancellor, to decide who would lead country and party.

Professor Abrams finds this frightening. Where split-second decisions may suddenly be required, he believes that nothing should be left to chance — and that the public has the right to expect its leaders to be on top form, or to have a viable deputy if they are not.

The recent American obsession with making public the "medical" of presidents and presidential

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It's all in the mind



Brain food for brainy people: members and guests at a Mensa dinner at the National Liberal Club in Whitehall with salmon starters

If you want to get ahead do you really need to join a "brain club"?

In a timely move away from the physical obsession of the 1980s, the head, it seems, is suddenly the thing about which to form a society. There are at least three separate groups calling themselves brain clubs — all devoted, in one way or another, to the space between your ears.

First, there is a "new age environment" club in London. Then there is the Brain Club for a group of neurosurgeons (presumably for technical chit-chats); and lastly, there is The Brain Club, a charitable organisation dedicated to research and the dissemination of knowledge about cognition.

Research undertaken by this last club includes "Do Brains Love to Cuddle?", and "Who is the smartest person in the United States?". Membership operates "on a global scale" and is open for anyone who is not a hippy or a neurosurgeon. "We apply to anyone who has a brain, and who wants to know how to use it better," says John Needham, the head of the London "cell".

So egalitarian is The Brain Club, that a list of contenders for its annual Brain of the Year celebrity award includes, alongside Ted Turner and Madonna, Magic Johnson, the American basketball star, and the Prince of Wales.

The club's leader, Tony Buzzan, is convinced that braininess is not reserved for a mere sliver of society. "In between your ears is a super-bio computer," he says.

"You can do all sorts of magic things with it — you just need to know how to use it." And so his club is devoted to improving the capability of the mind, for anyone

who cares to turn up. The London club has its monthly meeting in a draughty office in Borough, south London. About 20 earnest-looking people appeared clutching felt-tipped pens and producing complex drawings from out of files. "These show different techniques for memorising information," said Jim Webster, a police constable who says he would never have passed his exams had he not learned memory techniques via The Brain Club. One woman was so impressed with the mental advice The Brain Club had given her, that she couldn't sleep after her first cell.

Meetings consist of lectures about the mind, and advice on "mental gymnastics". To help us with our gymnastics, our lecturer Jane Mitchell gave a memory test: you lined up a row of coffee beans, pennies and ticks for a partner who had to fumble along the line with closed eyes, memorising the order. Then they had to try to correctly recite the components of the "cell".

This was memory marathon time. Lines composed of up to 14 objects were placed down the desks: a hush fell as minds were pitted against coffee beans. Mr Webster could manage only a line of 12 objects. "I didn't feel my beans too well," he said sadly. Ms Mitchell walked around. "Fill up on sensible modality," she instructed.

Of course, this concept, available for "anyone who has a brain",

is quite the opposite to that granddaddy of all brain clubs, Mensa. Mensa, an "intelligence network" founded in 1946, is a society the membership of which is restricted to those whose intelligence quotient is 148 or higher. This is apparently achieved by 2 per cent of the population; consequently, Mensans believe they are in a sort of mental top table and don't waste their time with brain improvement.

Mensa, with its celebrity members, black tie dinners and weird newspaper adverts, certainly has the clout to seriously unnerve its competitors in the cranium club scene. "Mensa is like saying we're all clever anyway, let's just get together," said one member of The Brain Club. "Here we're all trying to develop mentally. We're not all very clever."

Mensa members do not bother with coffee beans in Borough offices; no fear. Their idea of a monthly cell is to have a dinner every four weeks at the National Liberal Club in Whitehall.

Guests at a recent dinner included a Conservative M.P., the art impresario Richard Demarco (both invited by members), and Sir Clive Sinclair, inventor of the C5 and now the Zike, who has been in Mensa since he was 17. As we embarked on our salmon starters (great brain food), Victor Serebriakov, the international president of Mensa and chairman

of the dinner, read out the list of topics we were to discuss.

Discussing something when you know you are brainy is not easy. At the beginning of the meal, topics such as "Is History Dead?" or "Whither the One Nation State?", were picked up rather haltingly by those assembled, anxious perhaps not to make an unbrainy statement in front of Mr Serebriakov.

But dinner is dinner, and gradually, the conversation turned to spicier subjects, such as the uncanny sexual appeal of anyone leading the Liberals. Mr Serebriakov vainly tried to keep control.

"Order! Let's have one person speaking!" he shouted. "Why?" the table chorused, before returning to the nitty-gritty.

For those eager to know what the nitty-gritty is for the top 2 per cent, let me say it's on about the same level as a radio phone-in. "Opera is just bloody operas prancing about in tights," said the Conservative M.P. "I should know, I've been on the Fringe." "Heaven preserve us from whingers," said a tax inspector, punching the MP with false camaraderie. "Let's discuss Page 3 of *The Sun*." The whole table groaned. "She does this every time. Do shut up!" said my neighbour.

"Is Mensa about improving your mind?" Sir Clive said. "Well not it's about having a good social life!" So, why the funny test? Why the 2 per cent? As far as Mr Buzzan and his brain club is concerned: "The news is good. It's no manner if you fail your Mensa test. You still have a brain."

ROB MILLARD

Western cash, Russian trash

The music business is starting to find that western rock and pop is a big hit in the east

are often offered poorer record deals than western musicians would expect. For the majority this does not matter. The only way to gain a recording contract in the past was to audition before state officials known as "Bald Uncles" — old poets and composers who would vet the music.

"It's going to change in a situation where a bunch of western oldies are making the decisions rather than a bunch of Stalinist bureaucrats," Mr Wells says. "And obviously the whole young lifestyle follows in advertising and TV."

Back in his Parisian office, such cynicism bounces off M de Caunes. He says simply that most east Europeans respect and emulate a western youth culture, top ten and all, because it is the best.

"England is still turning out some greats," M de Caunes says. "Even so some French singers are equally good." He cites Etienne Daho. Having gone through a Marc Almond image, Daho now looks distinctly like Dave Gahan, the singer with Depeche Mode. A group with a French name perhaps, but whose roots will forever remain in Basildon.

ALISON ROBERTS



Antoine de Caunes, TV presenter: brought up on a diet of pop

Dredging up ocean secrets

Water covers three-quarters of the world, yet we know relatively little about the oceans. Nick Nuttall reports

One of Britain's leading marine scientists is urging man's knowledge of the physics of the oceans fivefold.

Nevertheless, the exercise still involves men and ships, will take most of the decade to complete and will only produce a "snapshot" of the oceans' workings. Although satellites such as the European Space Agency's ERS-1 are providing invaluable data on waves, currents and sea temperatures, they can peer only into the first few millimetres of the sea's surface.

"We need as big an effort in oceanology as we have with the weather," says John Woods, director of marine and atmospheric sciences at the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) in Swindon.

Dr Woods will urge delegates at the Oceanography International '92 conference, which opens in Brighton today, to commit their skills to a plan by the Oceanographic Commission to set up a Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS).

Dr Woods, Britain's chief delegate to the inter-governmental commission, believes the world's nations need to spend \$2 billion a year on monitoring oceans.

The main difficulty facing marine scientists grappling with the role of the seas in climate change is the gathering of sufficient and regular data, such as is used in meteorology.

Satellites, described by Dr Woods as robots in the sky, are making it possible to collect huge quantities of weather information on clouds, moisture, gases, ozone and pollution.

From these satellites, meteorologists are able to gauge longer and more accurate forecasts and aid predictions on the impact of pollution on global warming.

In contrast, he says, marine scientists still rely on measurements made by men in ships, in some cases taken 122 years ago.

An international study, the World Ocean Circulation Experiment, was launched last

year and aims to increase man's knowledge of the physics of the oceans fivefold.

Nevertheless, the exercise still involves men and ships, will take most of the decade to complete and will only produce a "snapshot" of the oceans' workings. Although satellites such as the European Space Agency's ERS-1 are providing invaluable data on waves, currents and sea

temperatures, they can peer only into the first few millimetres of the sea's surface.

Such an experiment can also be very expensive. Using a survey ship in the Atlantic on a project can cost as much as £500,000.

"What we need for the Global Ocean Observing Sys-

'We need as much of an effort with oceanology as we have with the weather'

tem are machines able to monitor and observe every layer of the oceans in the way that satellites do in the air. We need to make the big step from the tedious techniques currently at our disposal to ones where data is collected automatically," Dr Woods says.

The team, which hopes to have a prototype in the water by 1996, is working with materials experts at the Defence Research Agency in Durnfermire, Fife, on Dolphin's hull design and with Moog Controls on the craft's brushless motor.

At the Natural Environment Research Council's Deacon Laboratory in Wormley, Surrey, researchers are three years into developing two underwater vehicles that could be central to the GOOS.

One is the Deep Ocean Geological and Geophysical Instrumented Explorer (Doggie), a device that would carry out surveys of sea beds.

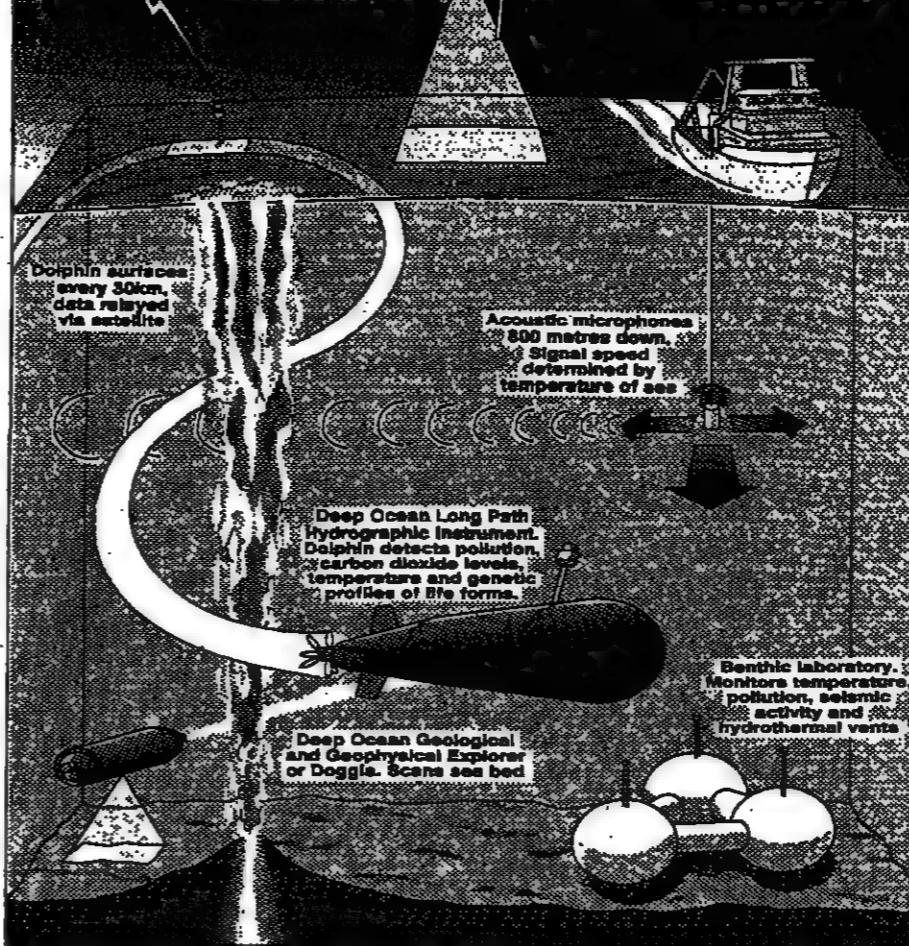
As the craft might have to be capable of travelling up to 4,000 miles without being recharged, a breakthrough in either battery or fuel cell technology may be needed.

The team, which hopes to have a prototype in the water by 1996, is working with materials experts at the Defence Research Agency in Durnfermire, Fife, on Dolphin's hull design and with Moog Controls on the craft's brushless motor.

Dr Woods believes about 200 Dolphins or Dolphin-like craft may be needed for the observing system, which will be set up in about 10 to 15 years' time.

French government-funded scientists are suggesting a network of Benthic laboratories, automated monitoring stations that would sit undisturbed on important parts of the ocean floor for years, as part of the observing system.

The team, which hopes to have a prototype in the water by 1996, is working with materials experts at the Defence Research Agency in Durnfermire, Fife, on Dolphin's hull design and with Moog Controls on the craft's brushless motor.



MONITORING THE OCEAN IN THE 21ST CENTURY

ERS-1 satellite Monitors waves and surface sea temperatures

Dolphin aurorae every 30km, data relayed via satellite

Deep Ocean Long Path Hydrographer. Dolphin detects pollution, carbon dioxide levels, temperature and genetic profiles of life forms

Benthic laboratory. Monitors temperature, seismic activity and hydrothermal vents

Deep Ocean Geological and Geophysical Explorer or Doggie. Scans sea bed

and Antarctica. The experiment is aimed at establishing whether the sound waves, which can be picked up by ships dotted in the Pacific, Indian and Atlantic oceans, are useful for detecting ocean temperatures down to 820 metres. The warmer the temperature the faster the speed of the sound waves, which remain trapped in the upper reaches of the ocean.

Dr Woods says German researchers are studying the use of lasers on aircraft to analyse upper layers of seas.

Despite these efforts, Dr Woods believes there is still much more work to be done on developing new equipment and instrumentation.

"This is a very exciting issue," he said. "The challenge I want to pose to delegates is who is going to roll up their sleeves and work with us to see what new technologies can be found?"

SCIENCE UPDATE

Missing protein

PEOPLE with Alzheimer's disease have lower levels of the protein choline in their brains, a team at Massachusetts Institute of Technology has discovered. The protein forms part of the cell membranes, and is also involved in the transmission of cell messages. Dr Richard Wurtman and his team report in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* that the choline shortage appears to be unique to Alzheimer's patients and the discovery may help with drug development.

Moscow jobs

THE European Commission has backed the idea of creating an International Science and Technology Centre in Moscow to employ nuclear scientists made jobless by the break-up of the Soviet Union. The aim is to encourage the scientists from emigrating, possibly to would-be nuclear powers in the Third World. The EC and the United States will each contribute \$25 million (£14.5 million) to get the centre started. The EC Council of Ministers has approved the project.

Tuna trap

STOPPING dolphins being caught in tuna nets is virtually impossible, according to a study by the National Research Council in the United States. "No practical technology exists to eliminate dolphin deaths from tuna fishing," the council has reported to Congress. The nets kill thousands of dolphins every year but the scientists have failed to find a suitable alternative method of fishing.

Aids hope

THE drug AZT doubles the chances of an Aids victim surviving for at least two years, a study in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* reports. Nearly 85 per cent of those treated with AZT would be alive after one year and 46 per cent at two years, against 46 per cent at one year and 21 per cent at two years among untreated patients, says Dr Stefano Vella, of the Istituto Superiore di Sanita in Rome.

Weighty factor

LOSING weight and taking less salt can reduce blood pressure but reducing stress and taking dietary supplements such as fish oil cannot, a study co-ordinated by the US National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute has concluded. Weight loss was the single most effective treatment. Salt reduction was the next best.

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Norton Rose M5

TUESDAY MARCH 10 1992

LAW TIMES



Polls apart: in 1964 Sir Alec Douglas-Home had to declare a proportion of the cost of a party political broadcast as personal expenditure. In 1992 posters spread the word

Best voters cash can buy

Richard Gifford urges a change in election law, which restricts candidates' spending but allows parties to spend millions

Before the general election overcomes us, it is worth pointing out the extraordinary fact that there are no limits on what the political parties can spend or the sums they can raise for their national campaigns.

Britain should now rationalise election law, first by bringing national party spending into account, and second by creating a standing commission to oversee elections. The publication of campaign finances would bring a breath of fresh air into a murky area. In the 1987 election, the Conservatives' central expenditure was £3 million, Labour's £4.2 million, and the Alliance's nearly £2 million.

This year again millions of pounds will be spent in advertising the party message, slick advertising agencies will project the expensive image of their client party, advertising hoardings will have been reserved and paid for months in advance of the election, and many years of research and fund-raising will suddenly burst into the media to seduce the electorate.

The counterpoint to this law of the jungle is the parsimonious limit to what can be spent by an individual candidate, generally between £6,000 and £8,000 in an average constituency. Here the full rigours of a complex system of regulations comes into play. This means, a candidate can only issue an election address, print a few posters and hire the odd hall for public meetings before his budget is exhausted.

This irrational dichotomy between

individual and party spending seems to be rooted in the 19th century, and is reflected in criminal offences of bribery and treating of individual voters. The distinction arose before mass communication and the widespread effects of advertising, pamphlets and postcards.

This system was reinforced in 1952 in a Central Criminal Court case when a limited company placed a newspaper advertisement attacking Labour party policies six days before the 1951 election. The court held that general political propaganda, as opposed to factors applying in a constituency, were not subject to the limit on an individual candidate's budget.

Again, in 1964 a Communist opponent made Sir Alec Douglas-Home bring within his individual election budget a proportion of the expense of the Conservative party election broadcast. The argument was that every candidate benefited from national party advertising and a proportion should be allocated to every candidate. The Scots election court rejected this argument by making the artificial distinction between party advertising and that of a candidate.

Woe betide any candidate, too, who jumps the gun and starts his election expenses running. Any intending candidate who features him-

self too prominently in local party literature or actually says he is running for Parliament will trigger the start of his election expenses. Thereafter any expense incurred on his behalf will count towards his election expenses and may put him over the limit, with disastrous consequences.

This question of when a candidate starts his expenses and what is included can be the subject of intense legal debate after an election. When Adrian Slade was elected to the Greater London Council for Richmond, he was challenged with 15.

permitted during a campaign is equally shrouded in uncertainty. A recent decision of the High Court, sitting in Tower Hamlets town hall and considering a challenge to the election of Liberal councillors in the borough, reversed the election court's decision that leaflets published by the Liberals, but presented to appear as if by Labour, were legitimate.

The technical requirements of election law had been complied with by adding the Liberal agent's name to the pamphlets in small print. The notices featured were all statements unlikely to appeal to the voters to whom the leaflets were delivered.

The election court considered that, as every attributed statement was a correct version of Labour policy, there was nothing dishonest or unlawful about it.

The High Court considered, however, that they were a fraudulent device as Labour would not have chosen to highlight these items of policy at this stage in the campaign. They therefore amounted to a "corrupt practice" and the successful Liberal candidates were disqualified from election.

"Knocking copy" is fairly common in elections, and candidates are usually safe if they comply with the technical requirement that their publishing party is in print, however small. In the thick of an election

items of excess expenditure. All but two of these were rejected. Mr Slade was held to have overspent by £60 and his election return was consequently inaccurate. Although he was allowed to retain his seat, he was ordered to pay the legal costs incurred by the Labour party, exceeding £50,000, many times the amount of his expense limit.

The whole question of what is

battle, candidates rely on these technical requirements.

What is needed is a supervisory body to oversee the conduct of elections. All that we have is an electoral registration officer whose function is confined to the conduct of the franchise and the filing of the candidates' returns, and a designated police officer, to whom a criminal offence can be reported.

A model is provided by the federal election commission in the United States, which is a standing regulatory body supervising all elections to the presidency, congress and senate. All campaign committees must file financial reports and state the amount of total campaign spending and the amount of individual contributions.

Unlike in UK election law, there is no limit on expenditure, except that if a presidential candidate receives "matching funds" from the federal election commission, he cannot spend more than \$46.1 million (1988 figures).

Pубlication of political donations in Britain would also stimulate debate on the benefits of state funding of elections. This topic has been ignored since 1975 when the Houghton Report recommended state financial assistance on the basis of 5p per vote cast.

Both Labour and Conservative governments have shelved the idea, in doubt content with their own fund-raising capabilities. It is extraordinary that their vast expenditure is not formally recorded anywhere.

• The author is a partner with Sheridans, a London firm of solicitors

Sean Webster reports on the Names' legal battle at the insurance market

Firms fight over Lloyd's

full inquiry into allegations of negligence at Lloyd's.

Other law firms representing Names are concerned that the writs and claims are not yet fully prepared and may unfairly raise Names' hopes.

Dr David Tiplady of D J Freeman, which has no connection with Michael Freeman & Co, says: "His case is legally 'unwise' and his chances of winning are slim."

He says D J Freeman is constantly getting letters from the Names' clients, asking why the firm is not taking similar action. But he has no plans to do so, and has written to his clients disassociating himself and the firm from such advice.

Richards Butler, another firm representing Names, has also advised clients against following suit. Mark Conroy, a partner, says:

"The chances of succeeding are not good and Michael Freeman is offering his services to people who are desperate."

Michael Freeman himself,

the senior partner in his firm,

rebutts accusations that the case is not fully prepared,

pointing out that it had to be assembled quickly. "Had we

taken all the usual steps

before launching such a com-

plicated action, the Names' funds would have been lost, because we had only eight days to issue the writs before the Names' deposits were due to be drawn down by the Lloyd's members' agents.

John Fisher, of the legal firm, Withers, representing the Goods Walker Action Group, which has been most badly affected by the LMX spiral of reinsurance, has written to the chairman of the group advising him to tell his members not to pursue the Michael Freeman course of action.

Mr Fisher denies that any criticism of the Michael Free-

man case derives from professional jealousy. "It is not at all a case of sour grapes. We give our clients the best possible advice." Withers, he points out, looked into the possibility of such action last October but counsel Gavin Lightman, QC, said the approach based on technical objections to contracts signed by the Names, would not succeed.

Mr Fisher says: "Even assuming that the technical points constitute a breach of contract and a good arguable case, it is difficult to see that the scales of justice tip in the Names' favour when you consider the damage that will be

done to the Lloyd's reputation among all paying claims that are due." He believes a case based on the duty of care of members' agents over Names might succeed.

A further criticism being made of Michael Freeman & Co is that the firm has sailed close to the wind and may have breached Law Society rules on advertising by sending letters to Names inviting them to send cheques for £200 to join in injunction proceedings. But the firm has not been reported to the Law Society.

Tim Marsden, a partner of Michael Freeman says: "There has been criticism of what we are doing over the Names issue. Sometimes this comes from lawyers who are losing business to us and are envious."

• The author is a writer for the *Solicitors' Journal*

Home help?

With confusion over whether legal aid is available in mortgage default proceedings, and concern over the cursory treatment by magistrates of debtors, Philip Ely, the president of the Law Society, has called on John Major to support measures to improve the lot of mortgage debtors in courts as well as innocent tenants made homeless when the landlord defaults.

In a letter to the Prime Minister, Mr Ely asks for leaflets about local advice agencies to be included in the court summons. Legal aid officials, he says, should be clearly told that aid is available for repossession hearings, and magistrates be more flexible in interpreting the "reasonable period" that debtors should be given to repay arrears.

In addition, debtors should be given more than the average two minutes a hearing so that cases can be heard properly. Mr Ely further recommends that landlords are placed under a duty to tell tenants when repossession proceedings start. Perhaps Mr Major will launch a homeowners' charter in time for the election.

VAT victory

Faced with the usual garrulous costs of repair and upkeep, the Friends of Win-

chester Cathedral organised an auction of donated and bought goods to raise money. Sadly the VAT man declared them legally liable to pay £6,500 of their hard-earned funds to him, arguing that the auction had in fact been a business activity.

Then Brussels came to the rescue. Grant Thornton, the Friends' business adviser, said that under recently passed European legislation the VAT man was not entitled to claim anything. Which just goes to show that the EC is not necessarily bad for British businesses, or British cathedrals, for that matter.

Awards rise

A study by the Equal Opportunities Review of settlements in 250 race and sex discrimination cases has shown a large rise in awards for injury to feelings since 1988, when Lord Justice May issued guidelines in the Court of Appeal.

A difference has also emerged between sex and race cases. Tribunals have awarded aggravated damages much more often in race discrimination cases.

However, levels of damages are still low. Only 3 per cent of awards were for £3,000 or more and most were for less than £1,000. Sexual harass-

ment cases attracted the highest awards with an average of £1,209 over the three-year period of the study.

Hard times

The Legal Aid Practitioners Group evidently believes that despite the auctions over criminal legal aid, its members have some money left. It is staging its conference and AGM at the Tower Hotel.

The case is a dramatic illustration of the lack of satisfactory standards in legal interpreting, a lack which is now being addressed by the Nutfield Foundation's Interpreter Project. The foundation has been working for eight years with the Institute of Linguists Educational Trust to develop the certificate in community interpreting, a professional qualification for legal interpreters.

A steering committee, chaired by the foundation's director and made up of representatives from bodies such as the Crown Prosecution Service, the Commission for Racial Equality and the Law Society, has also launched a study of the use of interpreters in courts and tribunals.

Hotel in London and secured a special nightly rate of £100 for a double room. Small change indeed for commercial lawyers but how many legal aid solicitors will be able to afford it? One hard-pressed legal aid lawyer said that if he could share the room with four others he could stump up his share this year but as for next,

with fixed fees in the offing, it would be a cardboard box on the embankment.

Speechless

In 1981, Iqbal Begum was sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of her husband. Three years later the Court of Appeal overturned her conviction because no one had realised throughout her trial that her interpreter did not speak her language.

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Lord Pitt of Hampstead has agreed to be the first honorary

president of the African, Caribbean and Asian Lawyers group, the charitable group set up last November which has a formal launch this week at the Law Society.

Other persons, including Keith Vaz, Labour MP for Leicester East, and Tony Holland, former president of the Law Society, as well as Judge Mota Singh, are expected to be there.

Talking sense

Blueprints for reforming the legal system published last week by both the Labour party lawyers and Liberal Democrats in advance of an election call look remarkably alike in certain key respects.

Both want a Ministry of Justice, a judicial appointments commission and a shake-up of statute law. Both also deplore the leaving of Law Commission reports on the shelf to gather dust. Robert Macdonald MP, launching the Liberal Democrats' policy document, said a "major shake-up is needed in the way in which the government discharges its responsibilities for the law. The statute book is cluttered with gobbledegook."

Similarly, Lord Irvine, one of the hot tips as Lord Chancellor if Labour wins, wrote in his pamphlet for the Society of Labour Lawyers: "draftsmen should be required to use plain English" and "give up the confusing legalistic style which dominates most legislation."

SCRIVENOR

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● LAW REPORT 11

Public interest invades the torture room

PASSION can cause bizarre behaviour. For love of Cleopatra, Mark Antony "kissed away kingdoms and provinces" and gave "his empire up to a whore". The Court of Appeal's recent judgment upholding prison sentences on sado-masochists is the latest in a long line of decisions penalising private passion.

The court, presided over by Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, rejected appeals against conviction for assault and wounding by five men who were members of a sado-masochistic homosexual group. The defendants had wounded one another by genital torture, giving and receiving pain for gratification. The victims had consented. The acts were in private, in rooms equipped as torture chambers in the homes of three of the defendants.

The court accepted that no permanent injuries were inflicted, there was no infection of the wounds, there was no evidence of medical attention being sought, and there was no complaint to the police. Nevertheless, the court concluded that the conduct was criminal, and that sentences from three months to three years were appropriate. The court appreciated that the victim's consent is usually a defence to an assault charge — hence the legality of conduct from medical treatment to contact sports and the tattooing of adults. However, there must come a point at which "the public interest" intervenes. A defendant who kills somebody cannot be exonerated by the victim's consent.

Publication of political donations in Britain would also stimulate debate on the benefits of state funding of elections. This topic has been ignored since 1975 when the Houghton Report recommended state financial assistance on the basis of 5p per vote cast.

Both Labour and Conservative governments have shelved the idea, in doubt content with their own fund-raising capabilities. It is extraordinary that their vast expenditure is not formally recorded anywhere.

• The author is a partner with Sheridans, a London firm of solicitors

problem by banning any interference with private life unless there is a pressing social need.

This was convincingly dismissed as irrelevant by Lord Lane on the ground that the victims were wounded. As the wounds were temporary, and indicated by consent in the course of the participants' private sexual life, the central question remains: why should the criminal law intervene?

Conflicts of law and morality arise in every civilised society in which the state confers autonomy on its citizens and vindicates the responsibility of deciding how they should conduct their private lives. Lord Lane's judgment is profoundly liberal by assuming that judges should impose moral standards through the application of the "public interest".

The sado-masochist appeal is going to the House of Lords. The appellate committee should repudiate paternalism and state that what people do in their own bedrooms, however repellent, does not concern the criminal law, if the willing victim suffers no serious or permanent injury.

• The author is a practising barrister and a fellow of All Souls College, Oxford

OUT TOMORROW

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Edward Fennell looks at the close London links forged with French and German law firms and new legal practices in the old communist bloc

Allies on the Euro front

The ingenuity of London lawyers means there is more than one way of responding to the demands of 1992. However, the announcement by the London "top ten" firm of McKenna that it is forming a strategic alliance with Sigle Loose Schmidt-Diemitz and Partners in Germany and S.G. Archibald of France will certainly generate a great deal of discussion.

The alliance, which brings together leading firms from every one of the three jurisdictions, characterises one of the most popular models now being developed to deal with International legal services.

By uniting firms with established followings and reputations, this new triple alliance offers the fastest and probably the cheapest way to a pan-European law firm.

Many firms would still argue that this approach cramps the choice of the local legal adviser. McKenna, however, says this is what clients now want. Stephen Whybrow, the managing partner, says a detailed marketing survey of 100 leading multinational companies showed that they now expect from their lawyers a "coordinated and integrated" approach to cross-border transactions, which makes use of the best local talent. The alternative models, such as joining loose "clubs" or opening one's own offices, are less attractive, Mr Whybrow says.

The alliance approach, however, does have its critics. Other leading firms, such as Clifford Chance and Freshfields, are still opening their own offices, confident that their name assures the client. Many other firms, including the medium-sized Goudlins, argue that it is still important to be able to dodge and weave through the European law scene, choosing the right overseas law practice for the job.

One crucial issue for Mr Whybrow and his new colleagues in France and Germany, however, is that time is now running out. There is a gathering pace towards exclusive relationships between the leading firms and McKenna believes that unless firms are hitched fairly soon, they could be left on the sidelines.

Mr Whybrow says: "We thought the club idea no longer worked. To be successful, it took an enormous amount of time and effort and, in any case, it did not produce a large number of referrals. Once the alliance is in place,



the relationship is likely to be closer. Although the firms are avoiding a full commitment, so far, to unification, they foresee it as a natural development from their current position. Through the close working relationships expected to flow from regular cooperation, there should emerge a spirit that will express a sense of a fully integrated service."

The attractiveness of the partners is obvious. Archibald has one of the best names in Paris, and Sigle, Loose Schmidt-Diemitz has

headquarters in Stuttgart and offices in Frankfurt, Berlin and Leipzig. The arrangement should make the triple alliance one of the five or ten pan-European law firms widely predicted to dominate the Continent in the next century.

In addition to the usual exchanges of staff and common training, the firms are now also starting to undertake joint marketing and presentations to European institutions and potential American clients. This marketing exercise is probably the most

important undertaking of all. The real test of these Euro strategies is whether they bring in more, high-quality business.

Mr Whybrow is confident that it will, and he can draw comfort from the experience of Jaques & Lewis, which, although much smaller, linked up with Chambre Caillard & Associés, of Paris, and Fiedler & Foster, of Munich, Frankfurt and Leipzig a few years ago. "Our alliance with

our French and German colleagues has filled a gap in our service," says John Northam, the senior partner at Jaques & Lewis. "I expect that in due course it will lead to a Europe-wide partnership." Part of the motivation for the Jaques & Lewis alliance was its role in attracting American clients and building credibility with American lawyers.

The alliance also allows the firms to contemplate a joint office in Brussels, which would be beyond them individually.

CLIFFORD Chance, London's largest law firm, is finalising arrangements for opening in Warsaw as part of its policy of being represented in all Europe's leading commercial centres. An official announcement is expected early next month.

The Polish development is also an important step in Clifford Chance's continuing plans in central Europe.

Meanwhile, the firm's Russian practice has received an important boost with the recruitment of the husband-and-wife team of Professor Bill Butler and Maryann Gashi-Butler.

Professor Butler, who is American by origin and is based at University College London, is widely regarded as the best informed authority on Russian law in the West. He will be a consultant to Clifford Chance.

He recently played an important role in helping Moscow to draw up its new law on pledges, which effectively sets the seal on the Yeltsin reforms of Russian commercial law. Professor Butler says that any doubt that Western business people may have had about investments in Russia may now be removed, at least from the legal dimension.

Russia now has the kind of legal infrastructure that the international business community requires. Paul Melting, who runs the Baker & McKenzie practice in Moscow, acknowledges that the arrival of Professor Butler and Clifford Chance will put the firm in an entirely different position. "His level of knowledge is probably unrivalled," says Mr Melting, who himself is probably the longest resident foreign lawyer in Moscow.

Mrs Gashi-Butler, meanwhile, comes with recent experience of working for an American law firm in Moscow and knows the practicalities of dealing with Russian officials.

Despite the prolonged adverse media publicity about everyday life in Russia it seems that the international business community remains as interested as ever in the country's potential.

Russia's natural resources

continue to be a powerful magnet and the hotel industry is still developing. Telecommunications is also developing fast and is attracting substantial interest from all the large Western telecommunications companies.

"All of this means that business people need a lot of legal advice to enable them to weigh up the risks of investing in Russia," Professor Butler says. "They need advice on how the system works from people on the ground who are able to ferret out information on the latest developments."

There are now 15 to 20 foreign law practices, including Scandinavian firms, in Moscow, and the foreign legal community is continuing to expand.

Mr Melting's Baker & McKenzie office, for example, has more than doubled in size since the August coup and is still suffering from a shortage of staff. Mr Melting says: "There is more work than ever before and no lack of interest from inward investors. In fact, now that it is easier than before to set up a legal entity in Russia, there is a big growth in the number of overseas subsidiaries moving in." The fragmentation of the old Soviet Union is reshaping the way the services are provided. Lawyers now regard it as inappropriate to attempt to run transactions outside Russia from a Moscow office. As a result, Baker & McKenzie operates in the Baltic states from its Stockholm office and the firm has a presence in Kiev to handle developments in the Ukraine.

Although much of the running in Moscow is made by foreign lawyers, Professor Butler acknowledges that the Russians will soon develop their own sophisticated legal experts.

The Russians are being held back by the lack of experience in running legal services as a business but Professor Butler believes that within a decade Clifford Chance will have Russian partners. In addition, local Russian practices can also be expected to develop fast and within a few years a healthy mix of foreign and local firms handling international transactions is likely.

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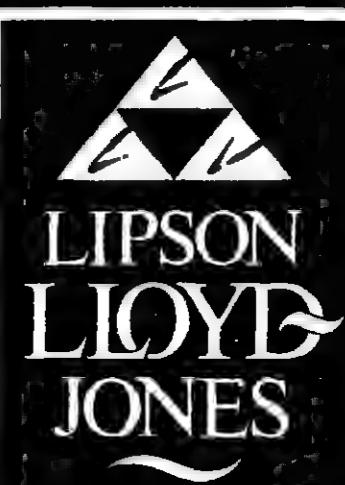
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Court of Appeal

Law Report March 10 1992

Chancery Division

Precondition of citizen's arrest

Regina v Self

Before Lord Justice Watkinson, Mr Justice Swinton Thomas and Mr Justice Garland [Judgment February 25]

The power of arrest without a warrant where an arrestable offence had been committed pursuant to section 24(5) of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, required, as a condition

precedent, an offence committed.

Where, therefore, private citizens arrested a defendant in the belief that he had stolen goods from a shop, but subsequently the defendant was acquitted by a police officer, in October 1990, stole a bar of chocolate valued at 79p belonging to Woolworths store in Twickenham. All the offences formed part of a continuous chain of events.

The prosecution case was that a store detective saw the appellant, in plain clothes, take the bar of chocolate and walk out of the store without paying for it.

She and a part-time sales assistant followed the appellant and saw him take the chocolate from his pocket and put it under a car. She picked it up and asked the assistant to return to the store.

The assistant said "You have been shopping" and there was a scuffle. The appellant grabbed the assistant's right arm, leaving a long scratch, punched him on the cheek and kicked him on the shin. The appellant ran off, followed by the assistant.

A man in his car saw the scuffle, left his car and asked the store detective if she needed assistance. She said "Yes" and ran after the appellant, who, after a struggle, hit the appellant's hand behind his back and said he was making a citizen's arrest because he believed he had been shopping. In his struggle to get away the appellant kicked the man above his knee.

In his defence the appellant said that he had picked up the chocolate bar but had forgotten about it and had no intention of stealing it. He could not explain

peaks, for the appellant: Mr Stuart Sleeman for the Crown.

JUDGE GARLAND, giving the judgment of the court, said that by the count of the facts it was alleged that the appellant, who at the time was a serving police officer, in October 1990, stole a bar of chocolate valued at 79p belonging to Woolworths store in Twickenham. All the

offences but at the time he was not well.

One point was central to the appeal. It was submitted that since the appellant was acquitted of theft of a bar of the young man was entitled by virtue of section 24 of the 1984 Act to effect a citizen's arrest, so that the appellant could not be convicted of assault with intent to resist or restrain his lawful apprehension.

Both counsel had frankly admitted that they did not adduce their mind to whether the defendant's conviction of assault with intent to resist his lawful apprehension could not be sustained.

In the judgment of the court the words of section 24 really did not admit argument. Subsection (5) made it abundantly clear that the

statute was clear and applying those words to the case there was no arrestable offence committed.

It necessarily followed that the two offences of assault, contrary to section 38 of the Offences against the Person Act 1861, could not be committed because there was no power to apprehend or detain the appellant. The convictions on those counts were quashed.

Solicitors: CPS, Kingston upon Thames.

Long cases can go to judge

J v Berkshire County Council

Justices faced with a lengthy hearing under the provisions of the Children Act 1989 should consider transferring the case to a district judge.

SIR STEPHEN BROWN, President, as stated in the Family Division on February 26 when dismissing the appeal of a mother against a care order granted by Berkshire County Council by Maidenhead Justices.

THE PRESIDENT said that the case had been heard over eight non-consecutive days. Congratulations were due to the justices who had followed the

principles of the 1989 Act precisely.

The court had sympathy with the justices for the length of time the hearing had taken and no criticism was made of that fact.

When justices were faced with such a lengthy hearing, they should consider whether the case should be transferred to the district registry to be heard by a district judge.

There was now a combined jurisdiction and the court recognised that a lengthy case could pose difficulties for justices in having to assemble on eight separate days.

The entry which the commissioners found to be a single

dwelling house comprised four separate flats in Cwington Square, Chelsea.

Appeal (The Times February 28)

Giving judgement in that case Lord Justice Balcombe, accepting that a dwelling house could consist of more than one dwelling, found the current state of the authorities to be unsatisfactory.

He went on to uphold the Crown's test: no building could form part of a dwelling house which had been an integral part of the family's residential accommodation by providing bedrooms for the elder children, guests and occasionally, for the taxpayer and his wife.

Mr Justice Vinelott so held in a recent judgment in the Chancery Division allowing an appeal by the Crown from a determination of Kensington general commissioners that had discharged an assessment on the taxpayer, Mr W. V. W. Norris.

The commissioners had concluded that all the flats constituted one dwelling house which was the taxpayer's only or main residence with the meaning of section 101 of the Capital Gains Tax Act 1979.

Section 101 provides relief for "a gain accruing to an individual so far as attributable to the disposal of ... a dwelling house which is, or has at any time in his period of ownership been, his only main residence..."

MICHAEL WARREN for the Crown; Mr Norris in person.

MR JUSTICE VINELOTT said that the appeal raised the familiar question of whether the sale of the flat was a disposal of part of a single dwelling house which was the taxpayer's residence. The question arose in unusual circumstances.

The entry which the commissioners found to be a single

dwelling house comprised four separate flats in Cwington Square, Chelsea.

In 1987 one of the flats was sold. It had been used by the taxpayer and his family to ease their accommodation shortage.

The commissioners found that although self-contained and in a separate building in the square, it had been an integral part of the family's residential accommodation by providing bedrooms for the elder children, guests and occasionally, for the taxpayer and his wife.

Mr Norris argued that the test for country house cases was not applicable without qualification where the question was whether two or more flats constituted a dwelling house. If, as he said, a top-floor flat had a garage or storage space in the basement they would together constitute a single entity even though not within the same curtilage of the main house.

The commissioners had referred to the country house cases of *Batey v Wakefield* (1982) 55 TC 550; *Markay v Sanders* (1987) 1 WLR 864; *Williams v Marlyles* (1987) 1 WLR 1511 and *Lewis v Rook* (*The Times* December 6, 1989) [1990] STC 223. Since the hearing an appeal by the Crown in *Lewis v Rook* had been allowed by the Court of

Appeals in what circumstances a flat and a garage or two flats in the same block separated by the common parts or in adjacent buildings were capable of being treated as a single dwelling house.

The taxpayer's proposition that the flat that he sold in 1987 together with his other flats elsewhere in the square formed a single entity constituting his dwelling house was an affront to common sense. The flat was a separate dwelling house that was conveniently close to provide occasional bedrooms for the children and guests.

Solicitors: Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

Riparian owner has no defence to river charge

National Rivers Authority v Jones

A person charged with an offence of wilfully disturbing a bed, bank or shallow on which spawning fish might have been, contrary to section 2(4) of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975, was not entitled to raise a defence that he was a riparian owner with the right to cross the river either on foot or by other means.

The Queen's Bench Divisional

any spawn or spawning fish and wilful disturbance of any bank, bed or shallow on which spawn or spawning fish might be laid "wilfully" within an intention to do damage. The findings of fact clearly showed the respondent had that intention.

The only defence available arose either in subsection (5) or from the exception that the person had the legal right to take materials from the particular waters in question.

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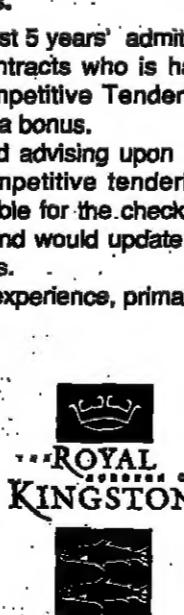
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AT Draycot, Clerk to the Committee, The Law Courts, Park Road, Poole, Dorset BH15 2RH.

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



Constructive career: Samantha Hitchins learns skills on site

Building on exam success

Why construction companies are pioneering new degree courses.

Ann Hills reports

for women in the Middle East," she says. Her ambition? "Higher management in site work."

Miss Hitchins's aim is being helped by an emphasis on management, which is the theme of four pioneering BSc courses — commercial management and quantity surveying at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (Umis) and at Loughborough University of Technology, which also has a BSc in construction engineering management. The fourth course is a BSc in construction management at Salford University, headed by Chris March, whose career began with John Laing Construction in 1963.

The Salford course started in October 1988 in partnership with ten construction companies, including Bovis, Laing, Wimpey and Taylor Woodrow. Mr March, helped to turn out well-rounded managers, sends second-year students to the John Ridgway School of Adventure in Sutherland for one-week outdoor leadership courses.

Although Salford graduates are virtually guaranteed employment

with their sponsors, some of the first batch are having difficulty in finding the breadth of experience needed to capitalise on their academic training.

Iain Roden, the head of training and management development at Bovis, admits that recruits are being stuck for longer than desired in some positions because of work shortages. "But that does not mean we can afford to ignore the future," he says.

This month, Bovis has acknowledged this with the introduction of an in-house master's degree, pioneered with Brighton Polytechnic. Its 35 students graduated from first degrees in subjects such as construction management, quantity surveying, civil engineering and building services engineering. So far, only two of the 35 are women, but Mr Roden hopes this will change as the profession of construction management becomes better known.

The course is based on project work and a series of modules spread over two years. This leads to a postgraduate diploma, and opens the door to the dissertation stage, which should take about a year and result in an MSc in construction management.

Mr Roden says: "This MSc represents a significant investment, but it is about the future of our industry and Bovis's position at the forefront of it."

Information on professional bodies is available from the Construction Industry Council, 26 Stow Street, London WC1E 7BT (071 637 6892)

DEGREES BY PRIVATE SPONSOR

ALTHOUGH the recession has resulted in cuts in the number of sponsored places through the construction industry, leading companies, such as Bovis, which specialises in managing contracts, are safeguarding training. Ann Hills writes.

The John Laing group is sponsoring about 150 undergraduates through 30 universities and polytechnics. Elizabeth Swain, Laing's group management development manager, says: "This figure is higher than in the past because three or four years ago we decided to make more use of sponsorship as an alternative to final-year milk-round recruitment."

Laing's big projects at present include the second Severn River crossing and the British Library. Even during the economic downturn, the management is still maintaining a steady inflow of recruits.

Balfour Beatty admits that its graduate intake is down, but even this year the group will be looking for between 60 and 80 graduates from specialist degree courses who are ready for the next stage in their professional training as civil engineers, quantity surveyors and builders.

Costain, with about 7,000

UK staff, gives a similar figure — about 60 graduates recruited in the past 12 months, fewer than usual, and expects to continue recruitment at this lower level.

In the West End of London, Willmott Dixon is building an extension to the Institute of Education.

Tim Carpenter and Tony Organ, the deputy director of Willmott Dixon Symes, one of the group's operating companies, are both managers who have achieved professional status by examination entry to the Chartered Institute of Building.

Mr Carpenter, the assistant to the chairman, began his career as a trainee site manager and is now completing a part-time MSc in building economics and management at University College London.

Continuing education is part of the company's ethos and this was recently acknowledged when Willmott Dixon Eastern received an employment department Investors in People Award for its training programme.

Mr Carpenter says: "We were the first building company to receive help. This company typically sees information technology as one of the ways forward."

071-481 1066

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

071-782 7826

The Luton & Dunstable Hospital Trust (Shadow)

In preparation for Trust status from 1st April 1992, the hospital's finance function is being strengthened and a challenging opportunity has arisen.

Financial Controller

c £52-£54k

We are looking for someone to set up and manage the financial accounting function and in particular to prepare annual accounts, develop and maintain control of financial systems as well as taking responsibility for income collection and treasury management. The successful candidate should preferably be CCAB qualified, have excellent interpersonal and staff management skills and a proven track record for financial management and accounting.

For an information pack please contact Mrs Pat Craddock, Recruitment Manager, Luton & Dunstable Hospital, Leeway Road, Luton, Beds LU4 0DZ. Telephone 0582 491122, ext 2172/2248 (or 24 hour answering service on 493710).

Closing date for applications 24th March 1992.

Working towards equal opportunities.



LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

THE LONDON OFFICE OF WANSBROUGHS WILLEY HARGRAVE

has a vacancy for a Senior Commercial Lawyer with experience of insurance and financial services.

The firm offers a range of commercial and litigation services to insurance companies and seeks to respond to the corporate requirements of these organisations in the light of growing opportunities presented by the single market. The appointment is required to service current demands and to develop existing connections. Salary is negotiable.

Please send CV in confidence to:

Head of Location,

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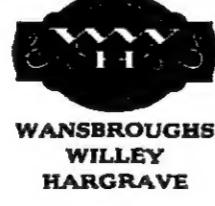
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COMMERCIAL LITIGATION

Stewart's is a young and energetic Lincoln's Inn Fields practice. Its expanding litigation department has a positive and innovative approach to its clients' problems and now requires a solicitor with two to three years post-qualification experience. The applicant will join a team concentrating on commercial litigation with an emphasis on professional negligence. Candidates must have good academic qualifications, experience during articles with a substantial London or Provincial firm and an instinct for practice development. A competitive salary and good career prospects are offered for the right candidate willing to work hard with us to provide a quality service.

If you are interested, please contact Colum Leonard or John Cahill on 071 242 6462.

or write to us at 63 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, WC2A 3LW All approaches will be treated in strict confidence.

TAKING YOUR PLACE IN TOWER HAMLETS

ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

PROJECT MANAGER

£21,465-£24,825
Ref: 646/36010967

The development of effective information systems is essential to Tower Hamlets commitment to quality of service. A manager is required for the recently established Development Team to provide bespoke I.T. business goals.

The Council has created a system of Neighbourhood Management where Customer Care is emphasised. The working environment is dynamic and demands considerable personal commitment. Priorities change continually and flexibility is the keynote in the way the department works.

The successful candidate must have experience of managing the development of quality software projects within agreed timescales. A programming background is required within the fourth generation language, Powerhouse. Knowledge of the AS/400 platform would be an added advantage.

For an informal discussion please ring Anne Surtees on 081 980 4831 ext 5095.

For an application form and application pack please call our 24 hour personalised recruitment line on 081-812 0880.

Please quote job reference. Completed forms must be returned by 20 March 1992.

Tower Hamlets

Tower Hamlets has transformed local Government by decentralising service delivery and accountability to seven neighbourhoods.

What Tower Hamlets is achieving today others will attempt tomorrow.

The commitment, energy, drive and innovation of staff are essential to our success.

Tower Hamlets is committed to effective implementation of its Equal Opportunities Policy.

Applications are considered on the basis of their suitability for the post(s) regardless of sex, sexual orientation, religion, racial origin, marital status, disablement or age.

All jobs are open to jobholders unless otherwise stated.

The Council's recruitment and retention package could mean subsidised car leasing, a relocation package worth up to £25,000, bridging loan facilities, free life insurance, subsidised mortgage and travel allowances.



THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION



DIRECTOR FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

This is a senior executive post within the Scout Movement, which has a voluntary membership of over half a million young people in the United Kingdom. The holder is to head a newly reshaped Community Development and will have a direct responsibility for supporting the development of Scouting within all parts of the community.

He/she will lead and manage a team of staff working in London and in the field. Additionally, he/she will have a responsibility for supporting the development, together with other voluntary bodies, of new initiatives designed to extend the range and scope of Scouting, with young people who may not be members of the Scout Association. The present holder retires in the autumn of 1992 and a successor is now sought.

Candidates, ideally within the age range 35-50 years, must have a commitment to the ideals of the Scout Movement and a proven management ability. A current working knowledge of the Scout Movement is a desirable requirement, but not essential. Those with other relevant experience are encouraged to apply. The holder of the post will be expected to live within commuting distance of the Association's Headquarters in South Kensington and there is a significant travel commitment in the job itself.

This is a full-time appointment for which the salary package as a whole will not be worth less than £30,000. Benefits include car, contributory pension scheme and 30 days holiday.

Application forms and further particulars are obtainable from the Chief Executive Commissioner, The Scout Association, Baden-Powell House, Queen's Gate, LONDON SW7 5JS, and should be returned by March 31, 1992.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Rushden, Northants

to £21,000

As Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive of East Northamptonshire District Council, you will be involved in developing strategies to take ENDC beyond the 1990s.

You should therefore be a resourceful achiever who combines personal initiative and flexibility with a broad range of project-management and problem-solving skills. Whether your background is public or private sector, you must have a mature approach and the ability to gain the respect of professional managers.

This is an extremely varied and interesting role in a district that covers a broad variety of villages, small industrial towns and attractive rural areas. You could find yourself working on any of the Council's responsibilities, which include housing, planning, environmental health, public buildings, leisure and tourism, local taxation and the promotion of regional prosperity.

If you have a proven record of success backed by a degree or professional qualification, you may have the experience required to thrive in this high profile position. We shall attract our chosen candidate with a salary of up to £21,000 plus three performance increments and a full range of benefits.

For an information pack and application form, please contact the Personnel Section, East Northamptonshire District Council, Rushden Hall, Rushden, Northants NN10 9NJ. Tel: (0933) 412000 ext 5116. Closing date for receipt of completed application forms: 23/3/92.

EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

FIELD DIRECTOR BELIZE

VSO has over 1400 skilled men and women sharing their skills with local communities in nearly 60 countries of the developing world. VSO has 30 volunteers working in Belize mainly in technical/vocational education, formal education and health.

The Field Director, who is supported by administrative staff in our Belmopan office, acts as VSO's representative in Belize. S/he is responsible for the development of our programmes and for providing personnel and promotional support to serving volunteers.

We are looking for somebody with an off-the-shelf management and administration and administrative skills previously gained in the public or voluntary sector, plus an understanding of development issues. Good communication and interpersonal skills are also essential. Experience of working overseas and a knowledge of volunteering would be an advantage.

This post is offered on a four year (2 x 2 years) fixed term contract, with tax free salary, accommodation and other benefits.

Although interview in Belize will not be until late July/August, you will need to be available for three weeks from 1st June for briefing in London.

THIS IS RE-ADVERTISEMENT.

PREVIOUS APPLICANTS NEED NOT RE-APPLY.

The closing date for the receipt of written applications is Friday 27th March with interviews before held on 9 April 1992.

For further details and an application form please contact:

VSO Personnel Department:
317 Putney Bridge Road LONDON SW10 9PN
Tel: 081 785 3345 (24 hrs)

MAROONDAH HOSPITAL

P.O. Box 135, East Ringwood, 3135 Victoria AUSTRALIA

DISASTER RELIEF UNIT

(Anaesthetic work optional)

Maroondah Hospital invites applications from Physicians and Anaesthetists who have intensive care experience. Specialists with anaesthetic qualifications may opt to spend part of the above full-time position as an Anaesthetist, in which case a very competitive salary package may be negotiated.

The recently constructed, well equipped Critical Care Unit has approval for nine beds including three Intensive Care, four Coronary Care and two step down. There is 24 hour dedicated Registrar cover.

This state public hospital of 218 beds serving the Outer Eastern suburbs of Melbourne has an active Emergency Department, operating theatres and most specialists in and out patient services. Radiology, Pathology and Laboratory services are well supported by investigative services such as C.T. scanning and Nuclear Medicine. The Hospital continues to advance at a rapid rate and several new services are planned.

HOSPITAL MEDICAL STAFF

Two positions involving Critical Care and Emergency Medicine will be available, commencing 4th May, 1992. Terms tailored to suit individual applicants.

Enquiries are welcomed by Medical Administration on (613) 917 3356. Return charges acceptable. As U.K. graduates will be required to gain medical registration in Australia from July, 1992, they are encouraged to apply promptly.

NORTH WEST ARTS BOARD SENIOR ARTS PLANNING OFFICER

£18,375 - £22,278

NWAB, the arts development organisation for the north west, seeks to appoint an experienced arts manager with good knowledge of local authority structures to this senior post, leading a small team responsible for local authority liaison partnerships and networks with local authorities, voluntary and private sectors, and also knowledge of the arts in urban regeneration and tourism.

Closing date: Monday 30 March 1992

For an informal discussion contact: Mr Leslie Ross, Director of Arts Planning and Information at NWAB on 081-228 3882 Application forms and further details available from: Executive Assistant, Arts Planning and Information, NWAB, 12 Harter Street, Manchester M7 5HY or telephone 081-228 3882

LIFE & TIMES TUESDAY MARCH 10 1992

success

PRIVATE SPONSOR

Crème de la Crème
every Monday Wednesday Thursday

071 481 4481

ANNOUNCEMENTS

STEWART-RODGAARD
Peter & Stewart are pleased to announce the birth of their youngest daughter, Kristie Marie. Peter Rodgaard and Kristie Marie were born on March 1st at Peter & Rodgaard, of Odense, Denmark.

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ALL TICKETS OBTAINED

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE MACMILLAN NURSE APPEAL

FIGHTING CANCER WITH MORE THAN MEDICINE

We hope you'll consider leaving a living testament of care for people with cancer in the shape of Macmillan Nurses when you make your will. Please help us by making a donation to our Macmillan Nurse Appeal or for a copy of our specially produced leaflet, "Leave a Legacy of Hope", write to: Macmillan Nurses, 10 Newgate Street, London NW1 2EE, or phone on 071-581 7811.

Cancer Relief Macmillan Nurses

BATTLE HONOURS

FOR 50 YEARS Britain's Airborne soldiers have given of their best. Please do your best to help all those now in need with a donation, or remember us in your will.

BROWNS BARACKS, ALDERSHOT, HANTS GU1 2BU REGISTERED CHARITY: 20042

MAKING YOUR WILL?

Please remember Parkinson's Disease Society. Men and women all over the world suffer from Parkinson's Disease, over 100,000 in this country alone. There is no known cure. Researchers need your help. Help us ease the burdens and find the cure for Parkinson's Disease with a donation and remember us when making your Will.

Parkinson's Disease Society
22 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1P 0RA

The Parkinson's Disease Society, 22 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1P 0RA

I enclose a donation of £.....

Please send me your Will leaflet

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FRIDAY FOOD FOR THOUGHT

SATURDAY SATURDAY SALES PRESENT SURPRISE

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WEDNESDAY LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME: Secretarial Appointments, CREATIVE & MEDIA

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every Wednesday and Saturday

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When responding to advertisements, readers are advised to establish the face value and full details of tickets before entering into any commitment.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE MACMILLAN NURSE APPEAL

FIGHTING CANCER WITH MORE THAN MEDICINE

We hope you'll consider leaving a living testament of care for people with cancer in the shape of Macmillan Nurses when you make your will. Please help us by making a donation to our Macmillan Nurse Appeal or for a copy of our specially produced leaflet, "Leave a Legacy of Hope", write to: Macmillan Nurses, 10 Newgate Street, London NW1 2EE, or phone on 071-581 7811.

Cancer Relief Macmillan Nurses

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BATTLE HONOURS

FOR 50 YEARS Britain's Airborne soldiers have given of their best.

Please do your best to help all those now in need with a donation, or remember us in your will.

THE WEEK'S GOOD CAUSE - TOMORROW 8.30am RADIO 4

THE AIRBORNE FORCES GOLDEN JUBILEE APPEAL

BROWNS BARACKS, ALDERSHOT, HANTS GU1 2BU REGISTERED CHARITY: 20042

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AFTERNON'S EMPLOY WANTED.—WANTED, by a young man, who is at liberty from 2 o'clock, and is desirous of being employed for the afternoon part of the day in a shop or warehouse, to CARRY OUT LOADS or PARCELS, or similar work, and Open a Warehouse, or make himself otherwise generally useful within the bounds of his strength, and to obtain some remuneration for his labour, and his character will bear the strictest enquiry. Address, pro-peddler, to J.M. at M. Arnold, chemist, 68, Barbican.

An advertisement taken from The Times Personal Column Thursday June 22nd, 1815. If you would like to advertise or make your own announcement, contact our classified advertising sales department.

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HOSPITALS: Prof. Peter, person to whom considerable fee. G.P. G.V. 0899 616 206. Tel: 071 323 4482

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BBC 1

6.00 *Ceefax* (27010)
6.30 Breakfast News begins with *Business Breakfast* until 6.55 when Nicholas Witchell and Jill Dando present news and topical reports with regular business, sport, weather, regional news and travel bulletins (5781298).
9.05 *Kilroy*. Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject (9040519). **9.50** *Hot Chets*. Paul and Jeannie Renkin prepare apple crumble tart with cream (6013659).
10.00 News, regional news and weather (9573568) 10.05 *Playdays*. For the very young (s) (8593650). **10.25** *Paddington Peas*. Animation (r) (8593652). **10.35** *Smartie Champion*. Family quiz game show hosted by Mike Smith with Kate Copstick (s) (9563519).
11.00 News, regional news and weather (4245519) **11.05** *Help Yourself*. The first of a series of six programmes in which Pam Rhodes investigates the benefits of counselling, showing how it works and where it is available (3193045). **11.30** *People Today* presented by Miriam Stoppard and Adrian Mills. Includes News, regional news and weather at 12.00 (6979368).
12.20 *Series* M&M. Music and chat introduced by Jim Spiers (s) (2599657). **12.55** *Regional News and Weather* (6014167).
1.00 *One O'Clock News* and weather (73126) **1.30** *Neighbours*. (Ceefax) (s) (2312751).
1.50 *Cheltenham Festival* 1992. On the first day of the premier jumps festival Julian Wilson introduces live coverage of the Trafalgar House Supreme Novices hurdle (2.15), the Waterford Castle Arkle Challenge Trophy chase (2.50), the Smurfit Champion hurdle (3.30) and the Bonus Priz Stayers hurdle (4.05) (s) (8575112).
4.20 *Jackanory*. Haluk Bilgic with episode two of the five-part story *Against the Storm* (s) (5054234). **4.35** *The Really Wild Roadshow*. Terry Nutkins and Chris Packham visit Twycross Zoo while Sue Dawson meets Britain's smelliest animals. (Ceefax) (s) (9420346).
5.00 *Newround* (3722924) **5.10** *Grange Hill*. Children's school drama series. (Ceefax) (s) (2752565).
5.35 *Neighbours* (r). (Ceefax) (s) (450768). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster.
6.00 *Six O'Clock News* with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey. (Ceefax) Weather (671).
6.30 *Regional News Magazines* (223). Northern Ireland: Neighbours.
7.00 *Holiday* presented by Anneka Rice. David Jessie tries a fly-drive holiday in Malaysia while Molra Sturt and Ross King sample two different types of holiday in Brighton. (Ceefax) (s) (3223).
7.30 *EastEnders*. (Ceefax) (s) (107).
8.00 *Just Good Friends*. John Sullivan's romantic comedy series starring Paul Nicholas and Jan Francis (r). (Ceefax) (s) (6749).
8.30 *A Question of Sport*. This week Bill Beaumont and Roger Black are joined by Team Sanderson, Peter Scudamore, Colin Montgomerie and Niall Quinn. The question-master is David Cawdron. (Ceefax) (s) (8584).
9.00 *Nine O'Clock News* with Michael Buerk. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather (5504).
9.30 *Budget Statement* by the Chancellor of the Exchequer (697039).



Women drivers: Nicola Cowper and Charlotte Avery (9.40pm)

9.40 *Rides*. Drama series about an all-women minicab company starring Jill Baker, Nicola Cowper and Charlotte Avery. (Ceefax) (s) (536252). Wales: *Week Out* 10.10-11.00 (R4).
10.30 *Film 92* with Barry Norman. Among the films reviewed are *Heart My Song* and *Fried Green Tomatoes*. In addition, director Mike Leigh discusses why a French film is his all-time favourite (s) (69857). Northern Ireland: *Open House*.
11.00 *Second Chance*. Tonight's adult learning film is about Brian Elliott, a 29-year-old supervisor from Leeds, who is taking a course at night school. (Ceefax) (177213).
11.15 *Spanner for Hire*. Another assignment for Robert Urlich as the private investigator (406522). Northern Ireland: 11.20 *Film 92* 11.50 *Second Chance*.
12.05 *Cheltenham Festival*. Re-run of the races on the first day of the premier jumping festival (s) (146121).
12.25 *Weather* (722701). Ends at 12.30. Wales: *Film 92*. Ends 12.45.
1.00 *Executive Business Club Preview*. A preview of the management training programmes soon to be available from BBC Select (5204169). Ends at 1.55.

BBC 2

8.15 *Open University: Managing Schools* – Burdeshouse Primary (9207042). Ends at 7.10.
8.20 *Breakfast News* (9617842).
8.15 *Womanspace*. A round-up of business from both Houses (8777010).
9.00 *Daytime on 2*. Educational programmes.
9.00 *News and Weather* (7431774) followed by *You and Me* (r) (56691519). **9.15** *Medical Matters*. Different blood groups and how they are determined by the white corpuscles (r) (56708855).
9.20 *Budget 92*. Live from the House of Commons, Mr Lamont's last budget speech before the general election. David Dimbleby, Peter Snow, John Cole and Peter Jay analyse the contents of the speech for the public, industry and politicians; and the cameras will be at a key marginal seat to test voters' reaction there (5704355).
9.30 *Film: Love is a Many Splendored Thing* (1955). Lush, banal romantic drama set in Hong Kong in which married American journalist William Holden falls in love with a widowed Eurasian woman (Jennifer Jones). Directed by Henry King (48190671).
7.35 *Animation Now*. Bill Vinton's *Mountain Music* (319492).
7.45 *Assignment: War on Peace*. John Carlo reports on how senior figures in South Africa's security forces masterminded the recruitment, arming and training of assassins following the release of Nelson Mandela to encourage bloodshed among blacks for white political advantage (521584).
8.30 *Food and Drink*. In the last programme of the series Archbishop Gregorios of Britain's Greek Orthodox Church tucks into a traditional pre-Lenten feast and there is a recipe for butterfly leg of lamb roasted in herbs and garlic (s) (6126).
9.00 *Quantum Leap*. Science fiction series starring Scott Bakula as a time-trapped scientist. In November 1958 he is trapeze artist trying to prevent his sister suffering a fatal fall. (Ceefax) (s) (735359).



Titu claims he was shot dead in a previous life (9.50pm)

9.50 *40 Minutes: Many Happy Returns*.
● CHOICE: First seen two years ago but well worth a second showing, *Reborn*'s intriguing film is about two children convinced that they had a previous life. Despite differences of culture and religion, the stories follow a similar pattern. Nicola, aged 12 and from Yorkshire, insists she was once a boy and describes playing with a dog by the railway track. Titu, a six-year-old from India, says he was married with two sons and ran a radio shop before being shot dead outside his house. Both stories might be dismissed as products of childhood imagination were it not that much of the detail can be corroborated. There was a railway line and a radio shop in the exact places the children described. Even stranger is evidence which apparently supports the way the children knew they had their previous "lives". (Ceefax) (s) (654655).
10.40 *Newspaper with Jeremy Paxman* (979323).
11.25 *The Late Show*. Arts and media magazine (s) (665478).
12.05 *Weather* (721343).
12.10 *Open University: British Eurospace* (4213275). Ends at 12.40.
1.00 *Executive Business Club Preview*. A preview of the management training programmes soon to be available from BBC Select (5204169). Ends at 1.55.

VideoPlus+ and the **Video PlusCodes**
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10.50 *Extraordinary People*.
● CHOICE: Anita Goulden is a former haberdasher from Manchester who went on holiday to Peru in the 1950s and stayed there. For more than 30 years she has devoted her life to feeding, clothing and housing Peru's abandoned children. Her story was first told on television in the documentary *For the Sake of the Children*, but now comes to life again in this programme as she continues to save young people from cholera. Now, 73, she regularly travels to the Andes to dispense pills and rehydration fluid and urge people to boil their water. In a country of desperate poverty, she is a focus of hope. Often forced to buy her medicines on the black market, and reduced to choking anger at the conditions around her, she refuses to give in. She says, wryly, that the only way to live peacefully in Peru is to be blind, dead and not to think. (Orac) (s) (612519).

11.40 *Newsnight with Jeremy Paxman* (979323).
12.05 *Weather* (721343).
12.10 *Open University: British Eurospace* (4213275). Ends at 12.40.
1.00 *Executive Business Club Preview*. A preview of the management training programmes soon to be available from BBC Select (5204169). Ends at 1.55.

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